

Monthly Message: Interactive Reading



KENTUCKY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of EARLY CHILDHOOD

Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn & Ready to Succeed

What is
interactive
reading?

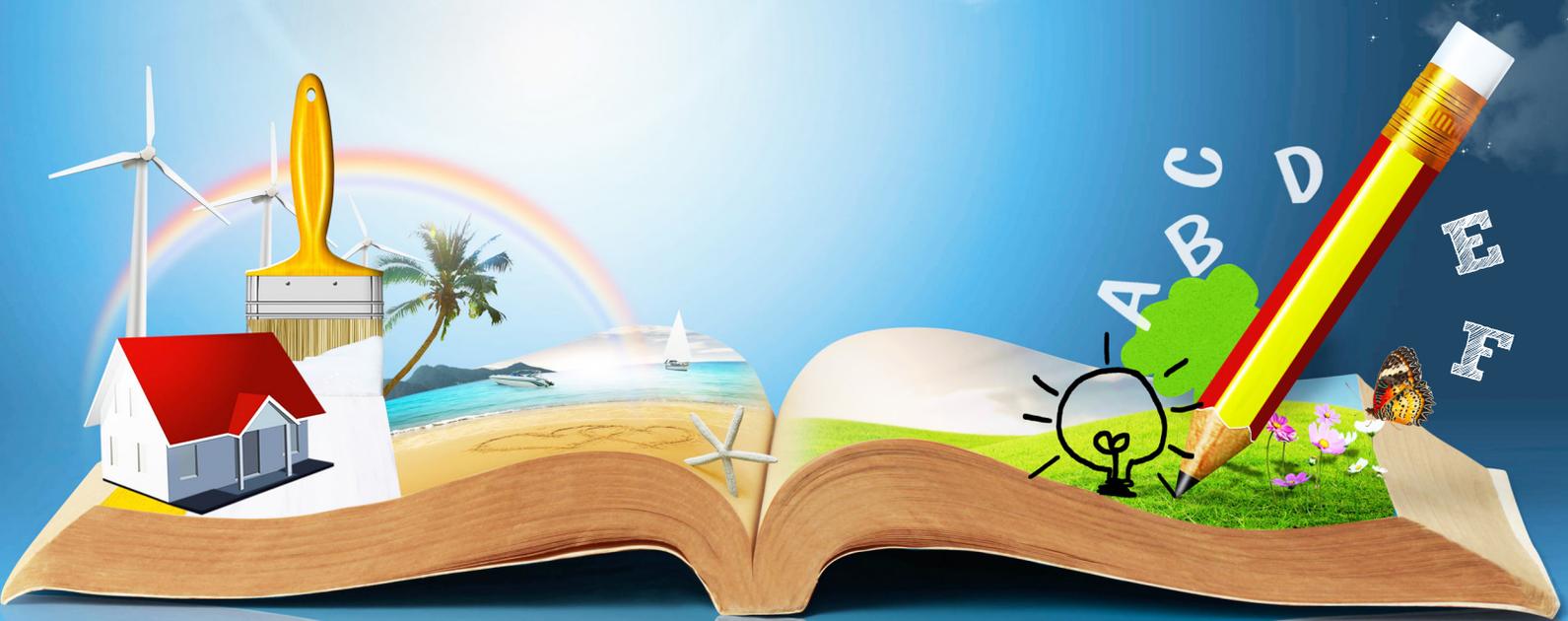
Three easy
steps to read
interactively

Tips to help
you read
interactively

Prompts to
help engage
your child



Help your child
understand the world
around them ...
one story at a time!



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Interactive reading or 'Dialogic reading' is a concept based on the work of Dr. Grover Whitehurst and the Stony Brook Reading and Language Project.

// In dialogic reading, the adult helps the child become the teller of the story. The adult becomes the listener, the questioner, the audience for the child.

No one can learn to play the piano just by listening to someone else play. Likewise, no one can learn to read just by listening to someone else read.

Children learn most from books when they are actively involved. //

- Dr. Whitehurst

Interactive or Dialogic Reading is more than just reading a story. It is children and adults having a conversation about a book. How we read to preschoolers is as important as how frequently we read to them.

Interactive reading provides children with many of the skills that are necessary for school readiness: vocabulary, sound structure, the meaning of print, the structure of stories and language, sustained attention, and more.

Learning to read and write doesn't start in kindergarten or first grade. As early as nine months of age, infants can appreciate books that are interesting to touch or that make sounds.

Three easy steps to help your child comprehend what they read:

- The child listens while the adult reads a story
- The adult and child have a conversation about the story
- Then the child retells the story as the adult listens

Tips for reading interactively

- Mix-up your prompts with straight reading
- Vary what you do from one reading to another
- Don't push children with more prompts than they can handle happily
- Follow the child's interest
Keep it light and fun

Prompts you can use to engage in interactive reading:

- Ask your child a question about the book
"What do you think the dog will do?"
- Respond to his or her answer
"That's right, the dog said woof woof!"
- Expand on what he or she said
"And what will the cat do next?"
- Summarize your discussion to help your child remember the conversation!

Resources: www.zerotothree.org, www.familit.org,
www.readingrockets.org, www.reachoutandread.org



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