



Books, books & more books!

Sharing books in
your home language!



Act out a story with your child.
Use a variety of words in your home language.

Babies enjoy looking at pictures with bright colors and faces.
Talk with them in your home language about the pictures:
Ooo.. look at this.
It's a boat. A green boat.
It can go very, very fast – or it can go very very, slowly.

Connect what happens in the book to your child's life.
Here's a car – we have a car.
This car is blue. What color is our car?



Decide to make time to read with your child every day.

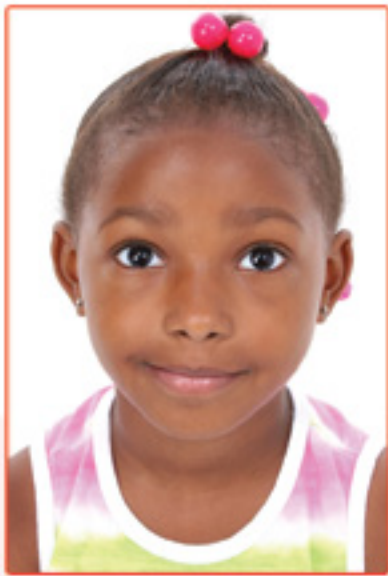
Even babies enjoy snuggling up with you to share a book.
Talking about pictures in an animated way will help your baby become familiar with the rhythms, tones and music of the family language.

Find comfortable places to share and read books. Young children enjoy corners and secret places – find these special places together, fill them with blankets and soft, cuddly friends and call this your book corner.



Go for a walk and talk about what you see along the way. This will help your child increase her vocabulary in the home language.

Look - this tree has beautiful pink flowers. It has a name just like you have a name. It's called a magnolia tree.



Help your child explore the world of numbers. Count everyday objects, talk about more and less, big and small, less and more.

If we eat this yoghurt, then the bowl will be empty. Who has more raisins? You or me? You or your brother? How do you know?

If you read to your child, she'll likely become a good reader.

Jump in and play with your child.

As you play, supply varied and colorful words in your home language for the actions of games.

Children will grow to both learn and love the sounds of words in your home language.

If I growl like this: GRRRR... then you'd better scoot fast – if you slip on this slippery sidewalk – then you're in terrible trouble.

Keep TV time to no more than one hour a day. Find programs in your home language. Watch the programs with you child and talk about what you see:

Why do you think the bus crashed?

What would you do if that happened to you?

Let your child see *you* enjoying a book in your home language. If she sees you reading in the home language - she will understand two things:

(a) reading is an interesting thing to do

(b) reading in the home language is enjoyable

Children learn more by observing and imitating than by being told to do something.

Make a pretend store and count out the change together.

With older children, talk about the currency used in your native country.

Note: How many books do you have in your home language?
Add to what you have and build a family library.

Open a book and read in your home language with your child several times a day. Make book sharing a habit. Encourage older siblings to share books in the home language with younger ones.



Place books in the home language everywhere!

Make sure you have books in the car when you travel. Take books when you travel on public transit, when you know that you will be waiting (doctor's/dentist's office), when you visit friends and relatives. A special book for a young child often helps in a new and unfamiliar place.

Questions your children ask are a bridge to understanding. Answer questions in an age-appropriate way. There is no such thing as a *stupid* question. Encourage question-asking as you share books with your children in the home language.



Read a variety of books to your child.

Public libraries often have good collections of children's books in many languages. If the librarian sees interest- s/he will happily order more books in your home language.

Share picture books where you can talk in the home language with your child. Talk about people, places, objects and events.

Support your child in her efforts to become a good reader.

Take time to talk about what you read in a book.

Use events that happen every day to teach your child words and phrases in the home language.

Visit your local library - many branches have children's books in many languages.

Write a letter in your home language to a relative in your home country. Prepare a shopping list with your child - provide words in the home language

Xpect your child to be a reader in the home language.

Your baby loves to hear you talk, sing and read to him in the home language.

Zzz – a good time to share and read books is just before bed.



Adapted from:

Literacy Develops in Families First
Centre for Family Literacy
201 11456 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0M1
<http://www.familit.ca/index.html>