Vroom Tips™

Parent Academy

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THE UNIVERSITY of MISSISSIPPI
Center for Excellence
in Literacy Instruction

Parent Academy Module 7: Reading

Sign Game (4-5)
Vroom Tip: When you're out and about, point out simple signs and ask your child what they think they mean. If they get it wrong, remind them it's a good try, and ask them to keep trying. Point out clues! (There is a barber inside, so the sign says "Haircuts").
Brainy Background™: Helping your child look for clues about what words mean is an important step in learning to read, write, and communicate, as well as developing critical thinking skills.

Read the Signs (0-2)
Vroom Tip: Some days, there's no time to read a whole book. But we're surrounded by words that are ready for reading. So today, read every sign or billboard aloud to your child and talk to them about what each means.
Brainy Background™: Doesn't matter if it's a book, a magazine, or a bus stop sign! It all counts. Reading to your child, anywhere and everywhere, helps them develop a rich, diverse vocabulary.

Shopping Stories (4-5)
Vroom Tip: Going shopping? Make a shopping list and create a story together about the items on the list to remember them: "Once there was a dragon who … loved to eat carrots and slept on a can of soup." At the store, encourage your child to retell the story and hunt for each item, checking it off the list. Take turns adding new items to the story.
Brainy Background™: When you and your child make up stories together, you're encouraging them to think creatively. When you ask them to retell the story to find the items on the shopping list, you're building their memory and making learning fun.

Twenty Questions (2.5-5)
Vroom Tip: When you're reading or telling a story to your child at bedtime, ask them questions about the story. Pause the story and ask: "What do you think will happen next? How do you think the character feels? What would you do if that happened to you?"
Brainy Background™: Asking questions (what, where, when, who, why) helps your child learn to focus and pay attention to the details of the story and use critical thinking skills. These questions also build their memory.

Learn more at vroom.org