Conversational Reading

Children are active in conversational reading

It is like a conversation, asking the child to do something and not always following the words in a book.

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Let's get started
Mums, dads, grandparents, and older siblings can do conversational reading. Read anywhere and anytime.

Get the whole family involved!

...indoors, outdoors, in bed, on the bus, at the doctor’s.
Conversational reading goes back-and-forth

The child does not always have to talk in the “conversation”. He can take part by looking and by pointing.

Use the 3S strategy.

Ask your child to respond on 3 levels.

Think of the levels as stair steps.

Your child does something

You do something

Your child does something

You do something

SEE

SHOW

SAY
ACTIVITY 1

Watch your baby’s eyes. Does she look where you point?
ACTIVITY 2

Name anything your child sees or touches in the book. Say the key word first.

Banana. You’re looking at the yellow banana.

ACTIVITY 3

Then, point to and name pictures or words your child is not looking at.

Check to see if his eyes follow.
ACTIVITY 4

Point to lots of pictures. Say interesting things about them.

Sometimes make “mistakes” and let the child correct you.

ACTIVITY 5

Sometimes point to parts of the book and name them.

See, this is the front of the book. See, these are the pages.
ACTIVITY 6

Point to the first word on a page and tell him that’s where the reading starts.

STEP 2
SHOW
ACTIVITY 7

Let your child’s eyes, hands, and actions tell if he understands what you are saying.

Where is a flower?

Yes, you showed me!

ACTIVITY 8

Ask your child to “show” in interesting ways.

Put your finger under the dog.

Tickle the monkey’s toes.

Cover the man’s hat.

Yes, you showed me!
**ACTIVITY 9**

Sometimes invite her to “act out” the answer to a question about the book.

- How does the kangaroo move?
- How do people clap their hands?

**ACTIVITY 10**

Let your child to show you parts of the book.

- Show me a picture.
- Now... show me some words.
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ACTIVITY 11

Invite your child to “say” – to answer in words.

STEP 3

SAY

Tell me what the cow is doing.

Eating grass!
ACTIVITY 12

Leave a word or two out of a sentence. Let your child supply them.

ACTIVITY 13

You don’t always have to use children’s books. Sometimes use magazines.

Talk about the pictures together.

The duck said...

...Not I!
ACTIVITY 14

Invite your child to “say”
– to answer in words.

Who?
When?
Where?
Why?
Conversational Reading

Ask yourself: Am I doing these things?

Every day I read with my child

I let my child do something (look, point, talk) when we read

I use the 3S strategy: see, show, say

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Credits


Activity 7  Photo courtesy of the King Hussein Foundation and the Iman Early Learning Institute

Activity 11  Photo courtesy of the King Hussein Foundation and the Iman Early Learning Institute