

Elephant & Piggie Books

Notes for Teachers and Librarians

The second page of this PDF is a flyer for parents with helpful tips on reading together with their children. You may print and copy this flyer and send it home with an Elephant & Piggie book. However, since these tips are designed to support reading any book together, you may want to send the tip sheet home by itself to enhance parent involvement in reading.

The books of the Elephant & Piggie series are ideal for a parent and child to read together. They are also ideal for a reading tutor and a student or for two buddies to read together. Each book in this series features heart-warming and hilarious conversations between two characters, Gerald and Piggie. When read together by two readers, each can simply read the part of one of the characters. The result is almost like instant reader's theater!

The humor in these books will appeal to most children from PK-3 and they are appropriate for a wide range of uses beyond reading together. The books are also ideal to read aloud to younger children, as well as for on-level independent reading, and as hi-lo books for struggling readers. The vocabulary in the books have been vetted by educational consultants and the skillful use of repetitive text and key sight words also helps make this series an ideal resource for supporting early reading skills.

For more information on the Elephant & Piggie series and other books for buddy reading and parent involvement, please visit us online at www.TreasureBayBooks.com.

Reading Together with Your Child

Tips for Parents

Reading together is one of the most important things you can do to help your child become a successful and happy reader. The format of some series, such as the Elephant & Piggie books or the We Both Read books, make them ideal to use for reading together. However, almost any book can be read together, as long as some of the text is appropriate for your child's reading level.

Below are a number of tips on reading together with your child. Try reading together at least a little every day and you may be surprised how quickly you see the benefits!

Beginning Tips

- Try to find a place that is comfortable and quiet. Make sure both you and your child can see the book clearly.
- One way to read together is to simply take turns reading. If the book is above your child's reading level, try to notice parts of the text that might be easy enough to invite your child to read. For example, if a sentence ends with a word your child might be able to read or even guess, you can put your finger under the word as you read up to it and let your child complete the sentence by reading or saying the word.
- Another way to read together is to "echo read," in which you read a short sentence or phrase, and then your child reads the same sentence or phrase.
- Be ready to prompt when it's your child's turn to read. See if it is helpful for your child to run a finger under the words while reading.
- Model good reading. Pause at commas and periods. Emphasize rhymes. Show excitement in your voice. Enjoy the story; your enthusiasm will be contagious.
- Praise often. Praise and encouragement go a long way toward a positive attitude.
- Keep the reading fun. Some struggle is okay. Too much frustration is not.
- Be willing to read books several times. Most children enjoy reading the same book again and again.
- If you are reading an Elephant & Piggie book together, consider taking turns reading with your child. You can read Gerald's part and your child can read Piggie's part. (And then you can switch.)
- If you are reading a We Both Read book, the book is already formatted for you to take turns reading with your child. Just make sure that the reading level of the child's pages (the right-hand pages) is appropriate for your child.

Advanced Tips

- Encourage your child to look at the pictures when reading. The pictures will help with understanding the story. Help your child to use the pictures or context to figure out unknown words.
- If your child comes across an unknown word, wait five seconds, then say the word. If asked for help with a word, say the word and move on. If your child might be able to sound out a word or starts to sound one out, provide encouragement. If your child misreads a word, and the new word makes sense, just go on. If the meaning doesn't make sense, simply say the correct word.
- Consider suggesting your child reread a difficult sentence.
- Stop occasionally and talk about the meaning of the text. If your child stops to ask a question, answer it. Also, stop to discuss new vocabulary words.
- After reading, have a short discussion about the story to reinforce comprehension and make connections. It is helpful to ask open-ended questions. For example: What was this story about? What was the problem that had to be solved? What did you like best about this book? Can you think of another book like this one? What is similar about the two books?

For more information on reading together, check out www.TreasureBayBooks.com.