



10 FREE GAMES TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO READ

For a child to learn to read, they need to be able to call on several skills. The most important skills are the ability to hear the difference between different sounds, the ability to remember both individual words and remember strings of words, a child needs to see the difference between different letters and they need to be able to understand and use the words through their every day speech.

The other major factor in getting your child learn to read is inspiring them into wanting to learn to read. There are various methods and techniques to inspire and motivate a child to learn to read.

At Notch Hill Educational Products Inc, we believe that the best way to inspire children is to teach through games. From experience, we have found that when kids are having fun, they are relaxed, and when a child is relaxed, they learn much quicker and easier than in a formal classroom environment.

Below are 10 free games that are simple and require no commitment or preparation on your part. Play them as often as you like, each game works on different skills that will help your child move towards literacy.

Have fun!

Notch Hill Educational Products Team.

**You and your child
playing and learning
together**



THE 10 FREE GAMES:

1. Make time every day to have a quiet time with your child. Sit down together and read a story, make the story interactive by asking your child questions about the pictures in the books. Ask your child what they think will happen next before you turn the page. This is number one on our list because we can't over estimate the importance of showing your children that books are important. Engaging your child in the story in this way will help create a curiosity for books.
2. As you are driving around town, look at the registration plates on cars and play a version of "I-spy" where you ask your child to find a registration plate with a specific letter on.
E.g.: "can you find me a letter Y?"
3. Once your child has learned the letters of the alphabet, take this game one step further and make up silly sentences using the letters on the plates.
E.g.: "HCC 649" could be "Hello, Chubby Chicken"
4. Clap out the syllables in words; take turns saying a word and getting the other person to clap the syllables out.
E.g.: Ci-ty, black-bird, Mo-mmy, da-ddy
5. Say 4 words to your child three beginning with the same sound and get your child to tell you which one is the odd one out.
Eg "coat, cow, tree, comb" or a harder version "Shall, shallot, snail, shampoo" – snail is the odd one out
6. Say two words and see if your child can put the 2 together to make a word.
*E.g. - If you have "Play and Ground" what do you get?
Try the other way – E.g. "What happens to playground if you take away the "play"*
7. Get your child to close their eyes and tell you what sounds he/she hears. Try this in different places. This is a great exercise for building vocabulary and practicing using new words.
E.g. "clock ticking, rain, wind, dog barking, car etc."

**You and your child
playing and learning
together**



8. Play a memory game. Put 4 or 5 objects on a tray and get your child to look at them. Then cover them with a dishcloth and ask your child to tell you what they were. You can change the number of objects to suit your child's level. These type of exercises will boost the memory of your child. Strong memory skills will help your child remember very easily what they learn on a day to day basis.
9. Give your child a letter sound and see if he/she can find something that starts with that sound.
E.g. - you: c (use the letter sound, NOT the name) your child: Clock.
10. Say a list of objects and get your child to repeat them. Start with just 2-3 and build up as your child gets better.
E.g. "milk, coffee, sugar, chocolate"