

{ Reading }

Children and Books in a Digital World

Reading opens up a world of possibilities. A child's vocabulary, imagination, and curiosity expand as they learn to read.

Reading together creates a strong parent-child bond and promotes healthy brain development. By reading a book to your child, you can foster brain development that is essential for the development of language, social skills, and emotional well-being. Books with rhymes, rhythms, and repetition captivate a child's attention. The more you read together, the more words your child will learn.

In addition to traditional printed books, books with interactive features like pop-ups, lift-a-flap, and touch-and-feel with sound and visual effects, as well as digital books, are also available. With the increased popularity and availability of digital books parents may be wondering if the benefits of reading a digital book or educational devices are the same as those of a printed book.

About Print Books

Print books offer a reading experience with defining features such as richer design and higher-quality illustrations. Children absorb more information and can better recall a story plot when reading a book that involves all their senses. The joy of flipping through pages, keeping bookmarks, feeling the paper, or smelling the book adds further interest to the child.

Print books are less distracting than e-books because the child is less likely to have their attention diverted by,

for example, hyperlinks, or clicking on another web page to find a word. Having fewer distractions while reading is conducive to having parent-child conversations that connect the story to the child's own experiences.

Kids learn language, expression, and communication through such discussions. Several studies indicate that children learn more from a print book than an e-book.

Printed books have attractive covers. Children are more likely to pick them up and reread previously enjoyed stories because they are more visible and easier to access. Encourage your child's love of reading by letting them pick a book to read. Read a favorite print book together to reinforce the family bond as children look forward to bedtime reading rituals.

About E-books

An e-book consists of text, illustrations, and images like a print book. The reflowable layout of an e-book (where the pages automatically adjust to the device's screen size) allows children to learn and enjoy books in a format that is personalized to suit their preferences instead of the static design common in print books.

An e-book is a book available in a digital format readable on electronic devices like a laptop, tablet, mobile phone, or e-book reader. E-book readers

are portable devices to read digital books and are smaller and lighter than tablets. The nonglare screen makes it easier to read in the sunlight and offers a long battery life, lasting up to a month. You can store thousands of books at a time. Some e-readers let you look up a word in a dictionary, track your reading progress based on your reading habits, and include hints on difficult words. Some online sources require a subscription. Local libraries may offer free online access to select e-books.

Technology-enhanced e-books have interactive features such as music, sound effects, animations, and buttons that encourage kids to learn and read. Reading activity is more engaging for children with features such as reading aloud, zooming in on an image, or looking up a word in the dictionary.

Adding too many enhancements can distract children from the story and make it hard to remember the details. When it comes to engaging with the child, studies show that parents tend to engage less when sharing an e-book than with a print book.

It is convenient for parents to transfer e-books to their handheld devices because e-books are immediately accessible. E-books are portable, lighter, and less expensive than print books. However, internet connectivity is necessary for readers to access e-books that haven't already been downloaded.



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Benefits of Reading in Any Format

Is it better to flip or swipe the page when it comes to story time? Choosing between a print book and an e-reader is controversial among parents, educators, and children. Can e-readers help or hurt a child's development as a reader or their love of reading? There are no clear answers to this question.

However, keep on reading in any format. Kids can benefit greatly from reading, whether it's print or e-books. Parents can experiment with both formats and choose the one that works best for their child. No matter what kind of book you're reading, reading together helps children focus, develop curiosity, develop social skills, and expand their imagination. It's also a way to spend quality time with your child.

Make Reading Fun

Making reading fun can help your child develop a lifelong love of reading. Here are some tips on making reading more enjoyable for your child.

- Create a reading nook in your home. You and your child can decorate the space together.
- Hold your child on your lap as you read and help turn the pages.
- Talk about the words and pictures in the book. Use different voices for different characters to bring stories to life.
- Imagine alternative endings, act out the scene, or have your child put on a puppet show featuring the characters they read about in the book.
- Have a collection of colorful books that you think your child

may like and let your child pick the book to read for the day.

- Don't limit your reading to only books; magazines, newspapers, and cereal boxes make great reading opportunities.
- You can read adventure books before visiting a zoo or books about good manners before visiting a restaurant. Connecting real-life events will help make reading exciting for your child.
- Associate reading as a fun activity. Don't make it a part of discipline or punishment.
- A book series can keep your child's interest in reading, so you won't have to worry about what to read next. You may also want to read multiple stand-alone books written by the same author.



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