



4-H School-Age Child Care  
University of California Cooperative Extension

# PARENT STYLES II

## Tips for Busy Parents

### HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN TO READ

Author: Sharon K. Junge, 4-H Youth Development Advisor and Home Economist, Placer and Nevada Counties

When parents help their children learn to read, they help open the door to a new world! As a parent, you can begin an endless learning chain: *You read to your children... they develop a love of stories... they want to read on their own... they practice reading... and finally they read for their own information and pleasure.*

You don't need to be an especially skillful reader yourself to help your children. In fact, some libraries offer adult literacy programs that involve reading to children as a way to improve literacy skills for the whole family.

**Following are suggested reading activities for busy parents:**

★ **Read Aloud To Your Children** - Read a variety of books and other materials. **As you read:**

- ★ Point out object in the pictures
- ★ Follow the words with your finger
- ★ Ask your child to turn the pages

★ **Read Aloud Together** - Children thrive on having someone appreciate their developing skills. **As you read together:**



- ★ Listen attentively
- ★ Take turns reading
- ★ Assist with words they don't know
- ★ Praise their efforts

★ **Talk and Write, Too** - Speaking, listening, reading and writing are all parts of language development. **As you write and talk together:**

- ★ Ask "*what if*" questions
- ★ Answer your child's endless "*why*" questions
- ★ Label items in your home or child's room with words
- ★ Show your child how you use writing
- ★ Tell family stories as you are driving
- ★ Ask your child to tell you stories

**Helping your child become a good reader is an adventure you will not want to miss!**

**Resource:** Adapted from: U.S. Department of Education Office of Research and Improvement, *Helping your Child Learn To Read.*

The University of California prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (covered veterans are special disabled veteran, recently separated veterans, Vietnam-era veterans, or any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized) in any of its programs or activities or with respect to any of its employment policies, practices, or procedures.

University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Dr., 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550; (510) 987-0096.

## ***EASY AS PIE***

*Preparing meals is another good way for children to practice language and reading skills.*

### **WHAT YOU NEED:**

- ☆ Paper
- ☆ Pencil
- ☆ Cookbook or recipes
- ☆ Food supplies



### **WHAT TO DO:**

1. Ask your children to help you prepare a grocery list for your next shopping trip.
2. Take them to the market and have them find the things on the list.
3. Have your children help put away the groceries. Encourage them to read the labels, box tops and packages as they store them.
4. Have them read the ingredients from a selected recipe.
5. Prepare a meal together. Ask them to find the needed items from the shelves, determine and measure the amount of ingredients needed as well as prepare the food.
6. Talk about the steps in preparing the meal ... first, second and so on.
7. Praise their reading and preparation efforts.

*The purpose of reading is to get meaning from the page. By using reading skills to prepare a meal, children see positive results from reading.*

Adapted from: U.S. Department of Education Office of Research and Improvement, *Helping Your Child Learn To Read*.