













Read Early, Read Often— Read Today

National Week of the Young Child runs from Sunday through Saturday, April 19 to April 25. Sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in Washington, D.C., the theme of this year's event is Early Years Are Learning Years...Make Them Count.

"Learning starts the day a child is born," says Helen Danielson, extension child development specialist at North Dakota State University. "It involves developing skills, experiencing new activities, relating to people and so much more."

Reading is one of the best tools parents and other caregivers can use to help young minds grow. Here are a dozen tips for making the most out of reading experiences:

-  Set a good example—read yourself and share your reading.
-  Read to children daily and select stories both you and the children enjoy.
-  Let children ask questions during story time and answer patiently.
-  Discuss stories after you read it.
-  Sit so children can see the pages as you read.
-  Talk about the author and who illustrated the book.
-  Point out special words as you read: "See, this says STOP here."
-  Vary the length and type of books you read.
-  Read beyond the children's intellectual level on occasion.
-  Make sure children have access to many books.
-  Take books to appointments and read together while you wait.
-  Always be thinking of new ways to make reading fun for children.