How reading books fosters language development around the world

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Abstract

Research on literacy development is increasingly making clear the centrality of oral language to long-term literacy development, with longitudinal studies revealing the continuity between language ability in the preschool years and later reading. The language competencies that literacy builds upon begin to emerge as soon as children begin acquiring language; thus, the period between birth and age three also is important to later literacy. Book reading consistently has been found to have the power to create interactional contexts that nourish language development. Researchers, pediatricians, and librarians have taken notice of the potential for interventions designed to encourage parents to read with their children. This article reviews research on the connections between language and later reading, environmental factors associated with language learning, and interventions developed in varied countries for encouraging book use by parents of young children.
Reading to your child is one of the best things you can do for their overall development. Many studies have shown that children who are exposed to reading at home from an early age are more likely to achieve higher levels of academic excellence. Reading is also a fantastic strategy to add exposure to the target language! To make the most out of your family reading time, check out these six principles that can help your children further their language development. These six concepts are described in detail in a great research article titled "How Reading Books Fosters Language Development around the World."