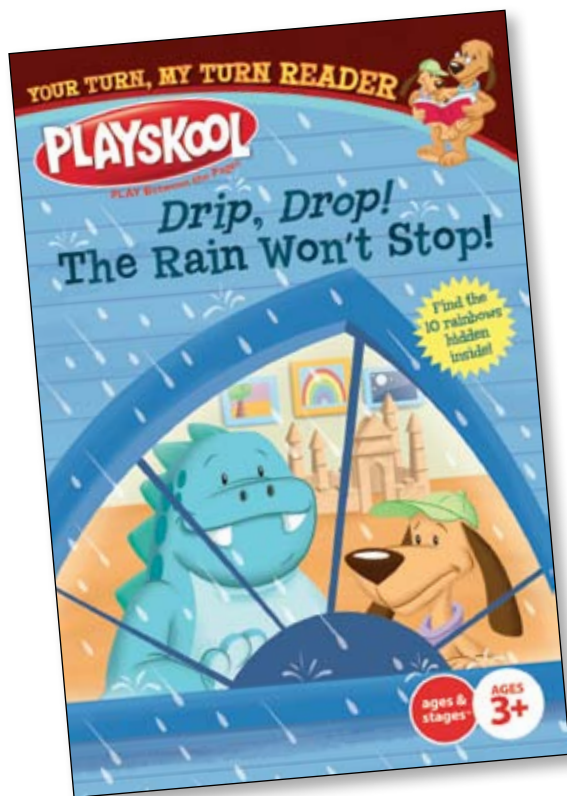


A Guide for Parents and Educators

YOUR TURN, MY TURN



Reading and Learning Together



This Section: During Reading



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During Reading

YOUR TURN, MY TURN: Reading, Learning, and Growing Together

The Your Turn, My Turn Series

The **Your Turn, My Turn** books are designed to facilitate interactive reading; the appealing stories and pictures present built-in opportunities for turn-taking and discussion. The left-hand pages are for parents or teachers to read to the child. The right-hand pages are for the child to read to you. The first time through a book, simply read the story, and model good reading. Then, gradually give the child more and more opportunities to read words, sentences, or entire pages on his or her own. After you read together, talk about the book. And look at the colorful pictures, which provide even more chances for discussing the stories—and imagining new ones.

The Importance of Reading

It is widely known that reading to children boosts their language, thinking, and school-readiness skills. But how we read to children is just as important as how much and how often we read to them. Children love to participate in reading, and research confirms that encouraging and nurturing their involvement is the most effective approach.

Your Turn: The Role of the Adult

So, what are the best ways to involve a child in reading? Here are some simple strategies to keep in mind:

- **TAKE TURNS:** Be a good model. Give the child plenty of examples of how to read and respond to a book. But then step back, give him or her a try, and make sure to be an active listener.
- **TALK:** Think of reading as a dialogue, or conversation. Ask questions and share thoughts that help the child understand what he or she reads.
- **ENJOY:** Keep it fun! If the child doesn't seem ready for a particular challenge, don't force it. Put it aside and try it again later. Trust yourself—you know the child best.

This Guide

This guide offers suggestions for interaction and discussion at all stages of reading: before, during, and after the book. We've separated it into three parts, so you can move at your child's pace. Feel free to try a bunch of the ideas, repeat the ones your child responds to best, and occasionally add some new ones for variety.

We hope that this guide helps you create a rewarding shared reading experience.



Understanding the Format

DURING READING: Read the Story Together

The following activities will help children understand how to read the story with you.

While the books are geared towards children between the ages of 3 and 5 years, you should use this guide based on each child's individual abilities.

A Good Model

The first time through a new **Your Turn, My Turn** book, read it aloud to the child.

- Allow him or her to sit back, enjoy the story, and savor the sounds of the words.
- Model good reading skills by reading slowly, clearly, and with expression.
- Run your finger under the words as you read to help the child see the connection between the written and spoken words.

Catch the Rhythm

Invite the child to read the book with you.

- Open to pages 4 and 5 and point out that you will read the pages on the left, and he or she will read the pages on the right.
- Help the child see the different fonts on the left and right pages—the writing on the right is larger and darker. Tell the child that this larger, darker writing is a clue that it's his or her turn to read.
- Flip through more of the book, and have the child say "your turn" on each page you will read and "my turn" on each page he or she will read.

Page by Page

Read your page aloud. When you reach the child's page, explain that you'll read it aloud while he or she listens closely.

- Run your finger under the words as you read. Then, ask the child to read the page with you.
- Place his or her finger in yours and guide it along gently as you read together.
- Finally, allow the child to read the page on his or her own.
- Repeat this process throughout the book, removing support gradually as the child becomes more and more familiar with the process and the words.

Word by Word

If the child is not yet ready to read a page independently, he or she can still read with you by saying individual words or sounds.

- Take advantage of the repeating refrains and catchy rhymes on the "My Turn" pages.
- Read a line on the child's page—preferably one with repetition or rhyme, so the child recognizes it.
- Leave out the last word of the line and encourage the child to say it with you or alone.
- Or, to provide even more support, say the first sound in the missing word, and help the child complete the word by filling in the remaining sound or sounds.
- As the child becomes more confident with the **Your Turn, My Turn** book, challenge him or her to read more words on each page.



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