Best Way To Learn To Read
Sometimes parents spend a small fortune on books with the intent of giving their children a head start on reading. Withal, they later realize that it was a waste of time and money, since kids get attached to just one or two books at a time.
Studies have shown that helping pre-school children learn their first words is surprisingly simple. The process involves as much repetition as possible. Reading their favorite book over and over will increase prospects of not only memorizing the meaning of the language, but the spelling and pronunciation as well.
Psychologist Jessica Horst, from Sussex University, delivered the latest findings from her inquiry at the Brighton Science Festival. Dr. Horst created an experiment in which three-year-olds were tested to see if they would recognize and recall six new words. During the course of a week, children were split into two control groups. **Group 1** was to listen to the same story containing the new words three times. **Group 2** was to listen to different stories containing these same new words.
The results of this experiment have unveiled that kids in Group 1 were able to retain 3.6 out of 6 words, which is evidently higher than those in Group 2 with 2.6 memorization rate. The result of this study is to be published in the Frontiers in Developmental Psychology Journal, later this year.
“Familiarity is the key to learning words“, adds Dr. Horst, who spent several years studying and analyzing children’s behavior. Dr. Horst is able to conclude that reading the same story multiple times, is examined to increase the probabilities of a child discovering new language.
"In the original study we found that children who hear the same stories again and again learn words better than the kids who get to hear different stories. In the follow-up study, however, I looked at how this worked over time. The answers brought out that children actually read better when the information is repeated," said Dr. Horst.
Dr. Horst applies her research findings to her private life. "My son is 19 months old, and I read the same books to him again and again. He sometimes will ask me to read the same book to him twice or even three times a night".

"We are demonstrating that less is more. Obviously the more times you read to a child and the more books you have will help them, but you don't need to go crazy and buy every single Thomas the Tank Engine book. Reading the same books over and over again helps“ said Dr. Horst
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Recommended Reading

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle

The Gruffalo, Julia Donaldson

The Tiger Who Came to Tea, Judith Kerr

The Cat in the Hat, Dr Seuss

Cinderella, Hans Christian Andersen

Winnie-the-Pooh, AA Milne