

## Benefits of Reading to the Child in the Womb

More and more mothers are realizing the benefits of reading to their child while pregnant. One mother reported that when her new born is crying she reads the book she read when pregnant; the child stops crying. Another mother reported similar results when she sings the song she sang while pregnant. Continued reading to the newborn while holding the child between the mother's breasts creates a bonding with the child that has many benefits. When father also reads to the child an additional bonding occurs. From the time the brain begins to form in the first tri-mester to well after birth and into adolescence the brain is creating a person. All brain input contributes to this developing person. Continuing to read to the child until the child can read to the parents reinforces the bonding. Providing a time for family reading as the child grows develops a positive attitude toward reading, learning and formal education (school) in addition to the family bonding. It is important for father to participate so the boys will not develop the concept that reading is a "mom thing" and not a "dad thing". Years later when the youth is approached by peers to "try this" the family bonding will have a greater influence than the peers providing a greater peace of mind for the parents. Planning ahead (reading) can produce benefits that money cannot buy.

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