THE PROCESS OF LEARNING TO READ

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Thinking about learning to read, involves many tasks. Below are list of 10 things that come to mind that a child must do in order to read.

1. The child must hear, be able to recognize the sounds and determine the differences between the sounds. This is often referred to as the auditory perception and the auditory processing.

2. The child will need to recognize the different sizes, shapes, position and form of the 26 letters.

3. The child will need to develop a sense of directionality. He must learn to hold the book with the cover first and the opening pages to the right and to read from left to right and from top to bottom.

4. The child will need to remember the sequence of the sounds and the syllables in the correct order. Notice how some children will pronounce spaghetti as bigshetti.

5. The child will need to learn that letters and combinations of letters are all associated with different sounds in speech. This entails knowing upper and lower case letters (capital and small), cursive writing, the 2 letters that make certain sounds ‘th’ for instance, or that the two letters make l sounds and that certain sounds are made up of many letters as in ‘laughter’.

6. The child will need to learn that B and b are the same but P and b are different, this will occur with many letters, likewise in script, the child must note the difference between e and the l.
7. On top of all this decoding, the child must also derive ‘meaning’ from the words read.

8. The child must use visual and auditory skills at the same time.

9. The child will need to simply remember the many rules of letters, the silent h in when, where and what.

10. The child must also understand the symbolic nature and meaning of grammar which includes the use of capital letters, punctuation marks, quotation marks etc.

For some, reading comes slowly and with a great deal of difficulty, but we should never take this skill for granted. Whatever possibilities, it is very significant to utilize the multi-sensory approach, some intuitive training, connecting to previous knowledge before going straight and make it acceptable and relevant. Be sure to look at a suggested reading for additional support to help struggling readers.

References:

Lyon, G. Reid., How Do Children Learn to Read

http://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-do-children-learn-read

National Research Council, Washington. Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children

https://www.nap.edu/read/6023/chapter/5