



Cutting out pictures on the floor with Alfred! (2yrs.4mo.)

Baby to Read", by Joy McMillan, also has some very good tips for how to detect symptoms of when a child is losing interest in reading and has a need to review what he has already learned.

18. WHEN DAVIDITO LOST INTEREST HE WOULD SELDOM PICK UP BOOKS TO READ ON HIS OWN. The idea of putting a star on each page that he successfully read soon wore off and I warned everyone to read to him and not to expect him to answer back or try to test him. I tried writing words on flashcards which was something we hadn't done for some time, but he again had no interest in that method.

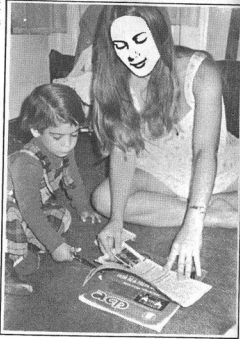
19. I PUT MESSAGES ON PRETTY PAPER FOLDED UP OR IN AN ENVELOPE ON HIS BED, but as soon as he would see that they were written words on paper he would sometimes put the paper back down and not care what it said. Sometimes Mommy would write him a little note and I would read to him what the note said, but he didn't make an effort to read a word aloud for about one month.

20. I OF COURSE WAS VERY DISCOURAGED at the time, but knew that the Lord must want me to pray about new ideas on how to regain his interest, maybe to

help some of you who may be encountering the same problem!

21. I WENT ON AN ALL-OUT HUNT FOR NEW MATERIALS TO READ, because making your own books can be very time-consuming, especially if they are too long. It's best to keep the books down to about 15 or 20 pages at the most. But a new book was a new type of challenge to him and he loved hearing the stories being read to him and talking together about the pictures.

22. I MADE A FEW MORE BOOKS MYSELF FOR HIM WHICH USED A LOT OF HIS WORDS IN REVIEW, especially the ones about mechanics, cars and pretty girls, which were his main interests. These review books contain only the word in big bold lower case print with the picture, and he enjoyed pasting the picture into the book with me. He also learned to cut out pictures with the scissors



(at 2 years and 4 months old), using one hand, due to his interest in making his own books.

23. I ALSO MADE A BOOK FOR HIM SOMETHING LIKE A DIARY CALLED "WHAT I DID TODAY, BY DAVIDITO". Every time we would make an excursion on the weekend we would write a little story about the excursion before bed, even though I wasn't sure he could read many of the words I would write down. He would watch me write them and we would draw or paste pictures in the book to correspond with the story. Of course eventually, through repetition, he learned to read exactly what I wrote down. Photos also make good pictures for children's books.

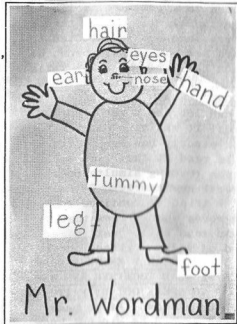
24. DURING THIS TIME OF DECREASED INTEREST IN LEARNING TO READ, HE BECAME VERY INTERESTED IN GEOGRAPHY, dancing and singing, gardening, telling the time on the hour, cooking, painting, carpentry and making a new playhouse. So I encouraged his interest in new things and didn't ever try to push any words on him and never let him think I was disappointed in him.

25. HE'S SO VERY SENSITIVE THAT THE FEAR OF FAILING WAS LIKE A GIANT PROBLEM TO HIM at the time, and I could tell without his even saying so that he felt very sorry that he had "disappointed" me. So I certainly didn't want to crush his tender little heart and show any signs of discouragement or disappointment in him.

26. HE BEGAN TO SHOW INTEREST IN LEARNING TO WRITE HIS OWN NAME in about mid-July '77, so I began rather than make him feel uncomfortable fearing that he might

tal "D" by following the dots. I also put two big shiny poster boards at the head of his bed where I could tape up words and pictures and Bible verses for him to see and look at before bedtime.

27. WE CONTINUED TO PLAY WORD GAMES as we had done since the time he first began to read at 2 years old. He liked tracing a lot at this time so we traced around shapes to make a head and body for Mr. Wordman and labelled the individual parts of the body with their appropriate words. I would situate the words in place and would sometimes ask him if the word was in the correct place on Mr. Wordman's body, but still was trying not to test him or get him to answer back for me.



28. I TRIED TO REASSURE HIM BY TELLING WHAT THE WORD SAID, and review his words in this way rather than make him feel uncomfortable fearing that he might