

**“My child seems to be memorizing the books he brings home.
Is memorizing reading?”**

Memorizing is an early part of a child's reading development.

Think of it as a stage. Toddlers benefit from memorizing



nursery rhymes. Beginning readers

often match their speech to the printed words in a familiar rhyme.

Repeated phrases in more difficult books are easily memorized by the child. This is actually a helpful strategy

as the reader can now focus on the

changing parts of the story and move quickly through the predictable lines. A child's memory for text builds fluency and helps him read smoothly.

“Why does the teacher encourage my child to point to the words in the book?”

Pointing is one of the first strategies a beginning reader can use to check his reading. Teachers sometimes use words like “self-monitoring” to refer to this technique. This simply means that pointing helps to remind your child to really look at the words. Some children do not realize that words convey a message. Pointing helps the child to focus and to notice the details of our written language, for instance, where one word ends and the other begins.

Just watch an adult reader. Even he will point to sort out a particularly difficult passage or to keep his place. As your child develops his reading skills and grows in confidence, you will see him pointing less frequently. He will be able to “point with his eyes.” Eventually his eyes will move quickly across the lines of print. Pointing is just another tool to help your child read.

