

Tips for Reading to Your Child

As Barbara Bush wrote recently, "*Above all, children love to be read to. It is a special time for them to be close to the grown-ups who care for them, and a wonderful way to feel loved.*"(Bush, 1993)

- Read often to your child and have fun.
- Snuggle when you read.
- Don't skip your regular reading time.
- Read and reread stories requested by children.
- Make predictions (child tells what he/she thinks will happen next).
- Enjoy the illustrations.
- Talk about the authors and illustrators of the books you read.
- Be patient while your child is reading aloud.
- Listen to books on tape.
- Have your child read into a tape recorder once a month and share the progress with him/her.
- Read aloud together with your child.
- Leave out a word or phrase on each page. (Ex. Little Red Riding Hood said, "Oh, what big sharp _____ you have, Grandma!")
- Have your child think of a new ending to the story.
- When reading a non-fiction book, ask your child what they know about the topic and what they want to learn.
- Discuss similarities and differences between stories. (Great with fairy tales)
- Alternate reading. You read a page; your child reads a page, etc.
- From time to time, invite other adults or older children to listen in or join in reading aloud.
- When you read, involve your child by having him/her point out objects in the pictures and follow the words with his/her finger.
- Read poems to/with your child.
- Read children's magazines.
- Echo Read: Choose something fun to read, such as a poem, song, or joke. You read a sentence with expression and ask your child to repeat the phrase after you.
- Check out the public library.
- Create a special place for your child's books in your home.
- Keep a few "old favorite" books in the car to enjoy.

Tips from a Teacher and a Mom

By Meredith Myers

Reinforce Reading:

- Set up a sticker chart to reward every book your child reads to you. Provide a reasonable reinforcement that your child chooses in advance to earn when chart is complete.
 - Your child can earn TV/video game time by reading first.
- Make practicing for spelling tests a game format. Write the spelling words on cards and take turns flipping over a card and reading the word to one another while having the other person spell it.

To make time for reading, have your child:

- place magnetic letters on the fridge and ask your child to spell words
 - read to you while you are cooking dinner.
 - read to a sibling.
 - read to a pet.
 - record themselves reading.
 - read books in the car to nightly events.
- practice spelling words in the car or while you are cooking by asking them to spell them verbally.
- read to you every night before going to bed and read a book/chapter to them as part of their daily schedule. You can take turns reading pages as well.