

## **Read with your child**

One of the most important ways parents can help their children learn to read is by reading to and with them.

In this section we will be providing you with many ways you can help your child develop language and reading skills.

### **The most important thing you can do to help your child learn is read with them!**

As you read to your child you help them develop a love of stories and poems, they want to read on their own, they practice reading and finally, they read for their own pleasure and information. When children become readers their world is forever wider and richer.

Here are some things you can do:

- Read aloud to your child. Read books, newspapers, magazine articles, the back of cereal boxes, labels on cans and signs in the street.
- Read poems and aloud. This helps your child learn about the rhythm and the repeated sounds in language.
- Point to the words on the page as you read. Move your finger from left to right and help you child understand that those squiggles on the page mean something.
- Listen to your child read to you. Even if they do not know all the words they can turn the pages and tell you about the story.
- Use the library. There is a library at your child's school as well as one close to your home. Ask the librarian for ideas about good books to read.
- Have things to read around the house. If there are books, newspapers and magazines around the house and children see you reading they will be encouraged to read.
- Talk about what your child is reading. Why did they choose that book? Did they enjoy the book? Would they like to read more by the same author?

Further ideas include:

- Read to your child every day for at least fifteen minutes. It is as important to read to older children who can already read as it is to young children who are learning to read.
- Reading to your child in English or your first language shows that reading is important.
- Keep books in an accessible place.
- Give your child a set of plastic alphabet letters. Use the magnetic ones on the refrigerator door to make simple words for your child to read to you.
- When reading, turn the pages slowly and ask your child to talk about the pictures in the story.
- Label furniture and other household items.
- Take your child to the local library for storytelling time.
- Take your child to the library to get a library card and check out a book.
- Encourage your child to read at home, as well as in school.
- Keep books, magazines and newspapers around the house.
- Help your child find letters on cereal boxes, road signs, food packages etc.
- Read a book to your child over and over again.

- Encourage children to make their own books as gifts.
- Read a magazine or newspaper with your child.

Give books to your child as a reward.

Take books wherever you go.

Sing songs and read poems to your child.

Make sure your child sees you reading.

Act out stories as you read them to your child.

Choose books about your child's special interest.