

## READING A BOOK TO A YOUNG CHILD

**Read aloud a book to your child everyday.** Especially when the child needs to calm down, needs extra attention, or you want to bond with your child. Studies have proven that reading books out-loud helps children to be successful in school. Children like the same book reread and reread.

Pick books with interesting pictures, large print, repeated word patterns, rhymes, something familiar, or funny situations.

Let your child look at the pictures and words as you read. (On your lap, beside you, or show the pictures before you begin to read the page.)

Point to the words as you read and explain that the letters have sounds and the words have meaning. Go over the names and sounds of letters. Explain that putting together the sounds of all the letters in the word is part of reading.

Pointing demonstrates that the reading starts at the left and goes to the right and starts at the top and goes to the bottom.

Identify the **Title** (name of the book), the **Author** (who wrote the book), the **Illustrator** (who drew or painted the pictures).

Use **inflection** in your voice. (Raise or lower your voice as needed to make the story more interesting.) Make your voice sound like the person or animal might sound.

**Ask questions and discuss concepts** of big/little, up/down, over/under, short/tall, hot/cold, few/many, large/small, same/different. Name colors and numbers. Define any unfamiliar words.

Let the child **Picture Read**. (The child looks at the picture and tells what they see in the picture or makes up their own story.)

Let the child **retell the story** in his/her own words, act out the story, or point out the objects in the picture.

Make up games to play with the book.

- Pick a letter or word and count how many times it appears on the page.
- Let the child count how many times one of their spelling words appear on the page.
- The child could do something physical when they see a certain word. (clap, point, tap, speak the word, etc.)
- Make up songs using ideas from the story.
- Find rhyming words on the page.
- Pick a word and try to think of words that rhyme with it.

Be a reading role model. Make sure your child sees you reading.

Place books where they are easy for children to reach.

Encourage children to scribble to develop their muscle control and to begin the first stage of writing.

Sing songs, memorize poems or cute sayings, and play rhyming games.