

HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE TIPS TO  
MAKE READING WITH YOUR CHILD  
A SPECIAL AND JOYFUL  
EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH OF YOU:

- Devote some time to reading together every day.
- Let your child choose when and where to read; such as after a meal, before bedtime, while waiting for an appointment or riding the bus!
- Read books your child likes. Let them choose books about things they are interested in or old favorites that they know by heart.
- Make it fun! Use different voices for characters in the book; be expressive.
- Read the same books over and over. It is okay to read books again and again. Children love and need repetition!
- Have a conversation about the book as you read. Look at the illustrations and use them as a way to start a conversation.
- Read everything you see! Read street signs, billboards, food containers and mail.
- Read when you are writing. Read out loud when you are writing lists or notes.
- Create your own stories and take turns being creative. You can do this anywhere and anytime; making up stories together helps children learn new words and use their imagination.
- It's never too early to start; the younger children are when they are read to, the better.

HERE ARE SOME STRATEGIES FOR  
MAKING READING AND LEARNING  
AT HOME A FUN AND BONDING  
ACTIVITY FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD:

- **ESTABLISH A ROUTINE**  
Pick a convenient time to read with your child each day. Many families find bedtime ideal. Other times may include after a meal, in the tub or after school. Keep a book with you while you're out of the house in case you have to wait somewhere with your child. Try to read to your child at least once a day.
- **READ BOOKS YOUR CHILD LIKES**  
Children are more likely to enjoy being read to when they know the story or are captivated by the topic. Spend time in your library's children's room—they have a collection of books on nearly every topic! This is a great place for your child to find a book that matches his or her interests.
- **TALK ABOUT THE BOOK**  
Talk about the pictures, ask questions about the story. Children often miss the small details of story. Ask open-ended questions like, "Why do you think the caterpillar doesn't feel well?" Refer to the book in your everyday activities, "This apple reminds me of the fruits in the book we read about the caterpillar".
- **READ EVERYTHING!**  
Reading to your child is not limited to books. Read street signs, cereal boxes, junk mail, billboards, newspapers, and so on. Celebrate your child's recognition of letters and popular words like STOP, EXIT, etc.
- **MODEL WRITING FOR YOUR CHILD**  
Read aloud lists, postcards, and notes that you create. Write a grocery list together. Let your child "write" and have your child "read" it back to you.



FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ONE OF THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS CHILDREN HAVE. EVERY DAY THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES ALL AROUND YOU THAT CAN BE USED TO ENHANCE YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING EXPERIENCES. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS YOU CAN USE AT HOME THAT WILL HELP YOUR CHILD TO LEARN NEW IDEAS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND THEM:

- Spend time speaking and listening to your child every day as you move through your normal routine.
  - Follow your child's lead and talk about their interests.
  - Talk about their feelings and ask questions and answer their questions. For example, when you get home today ask your child to tell you about a book they read at school.
  - Read books again! Every time you read a book your children learns more new ideas and words.
- **READ TOGETHER:** Invite your child to read a book of their choice. Read and talk about the pictures. The next time you read the book, invite your child to help tell the story by using the pictures and remember to explain new words. See what she remembers and add to what they share. Your child learns more every time you read the story.
- **DRAWING OUR FAMILY:** Invite your child to draw a picture of your family, including those living at home with you and in other places. Write the name of each family member on the drawing as you name them with your child. Encourage your child to put themselves in the drawing, and support them in writing their name on their picture. Put all of the drawings together to make a book. Encourage your child to put themselves in the book, and support them in writing their name on the front cover as the author and illustrator. Explain that the author writes the story and the illustrator draws the pictures.
- **TELLING STORIES ABOUT FRIENDS:** Ask your child what they like to do with their friends. Keep the conversation going by adding to their ideas and asking them to tell you more. You can also tell a story about what you liked to do with your friends when you were little. Telling stories to one another can happen at any time and is a good way to allow you and your child to share ideas and information.
- **PRETEND PLAY:** Pretend play is a great time to share ideas, information, and new words with your child. Bring a stuffed animal into your child's pretend play and help them take care of it. Talk about the things animals need and use words that describe what you are doing to care for the pretend pet or your family pet.
- **SCIENCE AT BATH TIME:** Bath time is a great time to talk about science. Dip pieces of paper towel, cloth, and plastic in the water and talk about which soak up, or absorb water, and which let water run off. As your child dries off talk about how the towel absorbs the water on their skin. After bath time help your child write one thing they used in the water during bath time. as well as helpful tips and tricks so that you can help your child cultivate a life-long love of literacy.

Visit [www.jstart.org](http://www.jstart.org) for tips and tricks that will help your child cultivate a life-long love of literacy

