

Reading With Your Child At Home

Create the Climate:

- Choose a quiet, comfortable place to read.
- Avoid reading during playtime or when a favourite TV program is on.
- If either of you is not in the mood to read, skip a night rather than having an unpleasant experience.

How Much Time:

- Ten to fifteen minutes, three to five times per week can really make a big improvement in a child's reading. Longer periods are not a good idea unless the child insists.

A Few Reading Tips:

- Please do not be concerned if your child is memorizing material you are reading together. Following print even if it is totally memorized is very useful for the beginning reader.
- It is better to choose books that are too easy rather than too difficult. Don't be afraid of books with lots of pictures and a little print. Let your child read old favorites.
- If your child finds the book difficult, do not hesitate to read it to him/ her several times and allow him/ her to fill in predictable words.
- Once the story has been read to him/ her, read a sentence and have him/ her read it back to you, following the words with a marker or your finger.
- Since young children often have difficulty following print, it is useful to sweep your finger underneath the print as you are reading together. Sometimes your child may want to do the sweeping while you read (or as you read together).
- Read the book together with your child. Become quieter when he/ she is having a little difficulty so that his/ her voice becomes the dominant voice.
- Read a page to your child and then let them read the next page. Continue this procedure throughout the book. This allows for the less able reader to "read" the entire book.