

Dear Families,

**Reading with your child is one of the most satisfying things you can do!** When you turn off the TV and snuggle up on the sofa, in a big chair, or on your bed with your child and a book, you are showing your child that you enjoy being together and that you value reading. Read a lot of different kinds of books. Reread your child's favorite books. Read with expression. If your child wants to turn back to a page or skip ahead in the book, that's okay. Enjoy the pleasure of sharing a book together!

Look for and encourage the following behaviors as you read books with your child. Does your child:

- Show an interest in books and reading?
- Ask questions and make comments about the characters and events in storybooks?
- Follow along in a book as you read?
- Make attempts to read and write?

Here are some activities that will help your child develop some of these behaviors:

1. **Read familiar poems** or nursery rhymes to your child. Stop before a rhyming word and ask your child to provide the word.
2. **Help your child make a book.** You'll need cardboard for the front and back covers, some unlined paper, a pencil, crayons, a paper punch, and yarn. Let your child choose what to draw and write about. Write down what your child says, writing one or two sentences on each page. Leave room for your child to draw a picture. When your child indicates that the book is finished, punch holes and fasten the pages and covers together with yarn.
3. Build a book collection for your child. **Provide a special place for your child's own books.** Talk with your child about how important it is to take good care of books.
4. Find time to **read your own books, magazines, or newspapers.** When your child sees you reading, it sets a good example and reinforces reading as a valuable and worthwhile activity.
5. **Read to your child for at least fifteen minutes every day.** Talk about the books. Ask about favorite parts and help your child connect the story to his own life. Answer his questions about characters or events. Libraries are filled with wonderful books for children. Here are a few suggestions:

Berger, Barbara. *Grandfather Twilight*.

Fox, Mem. *Possum Magic*. Illus. by Julie Vivas.

Hoban, Russell. *A Baby Sister for Frances*. Illus. by Lillian Hoban.

McCloskey, Robert. *Blueberries for Sal*.

Numeroff, Laura Joffe. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. Illus. by Felicia Bond.

Viorst, Judith. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Illus. by Ray Cruz.