

Some Useful Reading Tips and Ideas

Parents/guardians are their child's first and most important teachers. When parents become actively involved in their child's education, the whole family benefits in many, many ways.

5 Tips For Regular Reading with your JK-3 Child

1) Make it a Family Habit

- Read to your child for at least 15 minutes a day.
- Choose a comfortable place.
- Give reading your full attention.

2) Read for Enjoyment

- Let your child choose the books he is interested in.
- Let him turn the pages and discover the pictures.
- Read aloud and let him join in.

3) Stop reading if your child loses interest

- Short sessions work well.
- Follow your child's lead, if he wants to move on---move on!
- Reread favourite books over and over!

4) Be Expressive

- Be enthusiastic.
- Make the story exciting.
- Use different voices.

5) Explore the book Together

- Look at the cover and discuss what the story might be about.
- Give your child time to comment on the story and the pictures as you read.
- Discuss personal experiences this story makes him think about.
- Share thoughts and feelings after the story.

Some useful things to say if they come to something that is difficult:

- 'Go back and try it again.'
- 'Think about the story so far.'
- 'Try a word and see if it makes sense.'
- 'What do you think it could be?'
- 'Can we say it that way?'
- 'Does that sound right?'
- 'Does that look right?'

When Reading Becomes Too Difficult

Children learn best how to read when the reading is easy. When it is too hard, they are not learning anymore and they may become frustrated. If the reading becomes too difficult:

- Finish the reading together; or
- Read the rest of the story to them.
- Don't use that book for the next few weeks.

Look for Two Types of Reading

The books your child brings home will fall into one of two categories:

- **Books to be read to him or her**
- **Books she or he will read to you**

Be a Role Model for Good Reading, and Many other Tips

- Let him see you enjoying reading.
- Visit the library regularly.
- Notice print in the world around her (eg. signs, posters, food packages etc).
- Have a variety of fiction and non-fiction material available.
- Encourage him to use the computer.
- Find material that has male and female characters.
- Put notes in your child's lunch pail.
- Post notes on the fridge.
- Have magnetic letters on the fridge.
- Play word games when travelling.
- Let them see you enjoying reading.
- Share sections of the newspaper and discuss.
- Discuss TV shows and movies so that they can begin to view them critically.
- Read the same books and talk about them together.
- Notice print in the world around them (eg. signs, posters, food packages etc).
- Have a variety of fiction and non-fiction material available.
- Encourage them to use the computer.
- Find material that has male and female characters.
- Put notes in their lunch pails.
- Post notes on the fridge.
- Play word games when traveling.

Listen Well

- Be supportive.
- Praise their attempts.
- Give them time to work on a part that is difficult.