

## HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN TO READ AND WRITE

### Important at All Ages

#### **Fostering Good Listening Skills**

This requires the adult to model good listening. Reading to students helps. Teach your child to carefully follow oral directions. Start with one directive and move to multi-step directives. Encourage taking turns during conversation.

#### **Understanding the Relevance of Reading**

Reading with your child is a necessity. It serves as a time for learning, listening, relaxing and sharing good times.

#### **Conversing with Your Child**

Your child's ability to use oral language in phrases and sentences will be the foundation for his/her reading level. A good vocabulary when combined with letter knowledge and phonics gives the child two cues for reading with meaning. When your child is not successful in oral language, or to help him progress to another level, scaffold and build on what he said. Discuss common experiences

#### **Building Syntax (Flow of Language)**

Children who can quote nursery rhymes, songs, chant finger plays, etc. are building phonemic awareness skills and are more successful when formal reading instruction begins.

#### **Encouraging Decision Making**

Children who can make simple decisions, learn to manage their time wisely and to be flexible are better students. Games to play, what to wear, what book to read, etc. are practical settings for decision making.

#### **Setting Daily Routines**

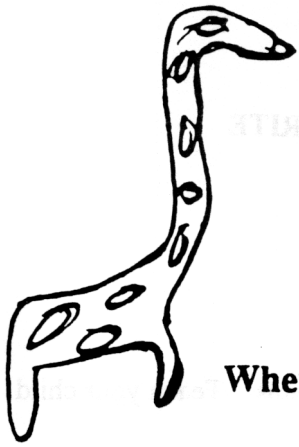
Daily routines and schedules for eating, working, playing, and sleeping help the child learn the sequence of time and ease them into thinking about the relationship time has to their lives. Later they will be better able to transfer that relationship to help manage their time wisely at school.

#### **Learning to Follow Rules and Share Time**

Children who learn to play games, take turns, and follow game rules develop logic and are better prepared to share the time and attention of the teacher. Learning to be a good sport when losing helps prepare the child for times that he may not be the "winner". The ability to have empathy for others is very important and will make the school experience a happier one.

#### **Providing Books and Writing Materials**

Visits to the public library and personal memberships are a common trait of good readers validated by research. Books as gifts are treasured later, often for a lifetime. A personal library of books can be a valuable asset to your child. Reading the books to him and reading while he reads reinforces the fact that you place great value on books and reading.



## READING WITH YOUR CHILD

**When reading with your child:**

**Let your child have opportunities to choose what book they want to read.**

**Pick a quiet time to read.**

- **Refer to your child as a "reader."**
- **Sit close to your child. Let your child see the pictures and print.**
- **Praise your child for any attempts to participate.**

**Point to words as you read them.**

**Discuss words that your child may not understand.**

- **Talk about the story and story characters. Compare with other stories.**
- **Ask open-ended questions.**

**Reread the book and encourage your child to join in on familiar phrases, turn the pages, and predict what will happen next.**

