



# School Readiness Tip Sheet

## Book Enjoyment

Reading to a child on a regular basis and making reading an enjoyable experience are the two most important things an adult can do to help children learn about books.

Parents know that reading is a critical skill throughout life. Parents can help children enjoy reading by:

- Allow infants to explore books as they would any other toy. Help older children recognize that books are special and there are ways to hold them and turn the pages.
- Set aside a consistent daily time to read with your child. While reading books with your child, encourage them to sit on your lap or very close to you. When a child feels close with an adult while reading together, he or she is more likely to enjoy the experience and express more interest in the story and in reading in general.
- Create a special, cozy reading space with books available for your child. On special days create a fort or tent for your child to read in.
- Read and reread the same book as many times as the child requests. Really, over and over again.
- Share a book with your child by reading the pictures. Rather than reading the words, tell the story by talking about what the characters are doing in the pictures. Then, encourage your child to “read” a story to you using the pictures.
- Before reading the story, point out the picture on the covers. Ask your child what he or she thinks might happen in the book based on the pictures and title. Your child might like to draw a picture of the ideas he or she has about the story.
- Talk about the parts of the book; the front and back, the title, the author and/or illustrators.
- Go to the library or bookstore together and attend library sponsored events for children.
- Introduce the concept of the “characters” of a story. Talk about the characters of your child’s favorite book. You and your child could draw and cut out the characters and use the pictures to tell the story using the characters you created.
- Discuss the events of the story. Where does it take place? What happened first? Then what happened? What do you wish would have happened?
- Make up your own stories. Write down your child’s words and read them back together. Your child can be an author and/or illustrator too!

