

## Parent-Family Tips – Reading

### Encourage Your Child to Read!

Helping your child become a reader is important. Reading helps children in **all** school subjects and is the key to lifelong learning. The following are tips on how to help your child become a reader:

- Start early. When your child is still a baby, reading aloud to your child should become part of your daily routine. At first, read for no more than a few minutes at a time, several times a day. As your child grows older, you should be able to tell if he/she wants you to read for longer periods of time. Make reading a routine.
- As you read, talk with your child. Encourage your child to ask questions, talk about the story, identify favorite and least favorite characters, and predict what will come next. When your child begins to read, ask him/her to read *to you* from books or magazines that your child enjoys.
- Try and provide your home with reading materials that are appropriate for your child. Keep books, magazines, and newspapers in the house. Reading materials don't have to be new or expensive. You often can find good books and magazines for your child at yard or library sales. Ask family members and friends to consider giving your child books and magazine subscriptions as gifts for birthdays or other special occasions. Go with your child to the library and check out books.
- Make reading important. Set aside quiet time for family reading. Some families even enjoy reading aloud to each other, with each family member choosing a book, story, poem, or article to read to the others.
- Show that you value reading. Let your child see you reading for pleasure as well as for performing your routine activities such as reading signs, letters, recipes, instructions, newspapers, computer screens, and so on. Have them help you read when possible.