

## Have Fun Reading Together

### Read Aloud Tips for Families

- ✓ **Make reading a priority** – Determine a regular reading time. Treat it like an appointment that needs to be kept. Bedtime? Breakfast? Bath time? Make it part of your daily routine. Everyone will be eager to know what comes next!
- ✓ **Reveal the emotions in the story** – Books share a broad range of emotions. When reading aloud, you can mirror the characters' emotions, making the story more meaningful.
- ✓ **Vary your rhythm** – Enjoy your book's language. *Slow down* to build suspense. *Pause* to let meaning or impact settle. *Whisper* when it's sensitive.
- ✓ **Be silly** – Use accents, funny voices, or sound effects to make reading aloud engaging. Use characteristics or mannerisms to make different characters distinct. Help make your story come alive for your young listener.
- ✓ **Make the reading interactive** – Pause to invite your child to make a prediction or to discuss something important. Take a minute to explain a tricky word or take a closer look at an illustration.
- ✓ **Expect some fidgeting** – Some listeners will pay attention better with something in their hands. A small toy, some crayons, a stuffed animal. Let your child figure out what works best for them.
- ✓ **Your book can spark conversation** – Seek out moments to connect the characters and story to your child's life.  
Ask open-ended questions:

Have you ever felt like this character?

What advice would you give the character?

Who does this character remind you of?

