

# Suggestions for Reading with Your Young Child

"Learning about books and print is a highly personal experience for young children."

Fountas and Pinnell

- Reading aloud to a young child should feel inviting and enjoyable to the child.
- Sit close. Your child should be able to touch and see the book, illustrations, and the words as you read.
- Help your child make connections between the story and their own lives, the world, or other stories heard by talking with him/her about some of the ideas in the story before you begin reading. (Independently previewing a book before you read it to your child is helpful.) Continue to build upon these connections by talking about the story as you read.
- Raise questions about the story before you begin reading.
- Talk about the pictures.

You can point to the word as you read so that your child can follow the print with you.

- Encourage some "sharing" of book-reading responsibilities — children can open the book, turn the pages, finish reading familiar sentences, etc..
- Pause during your reading to talk with your child about the developing story line, events, and meaning of the story.
- Encourage your child to make predictions about what will happen next (or last) in the story.
- When you are finished reading, talk with your child about the story. Remember to draw upon your child's personal experiences, perspectives and knowledge. (You can discuss whether he/she liked the story and why, his/her favorite parts, other special connections, and the meaning of the story.)
- Give your child the opportunity to retell the story with your help — using the pictures on each page as a guide can be fun and helpful.
- REREAD! ENJOY!