

READING TO YOUR CHILD

One of the most important gifts you can give your child is a love of reading. It is never too early to start reading activities. Interest in books is very important for success in school. Read to your child as often as possible. Remember that activities you do with your child will strengthen your relationship with your child.

Reading tips:

- ❑ Have a variety of books within your child's reach throughout the home.
- ❑ Reading to a child on your lap provides a sense of security and a comfortable feeling with books.
- ❑ Read to your child everyday. Establish a routine daily reading time, before your child turns one year old, find a time when you and your child are relaxed, and are interested in reading. For example, at bedtime or after a nap.
- ❑ When reading aloud to your child, there should be good lighting, minimal noise distractions, and comfortable seating.
- ❑ Avoid pressuring your child to learn or to read.
- ❑ Spend time reading yourself. This encourages your child to copy your reading behavior.
- ❑ If your child periodically does not show interest in reading, continue to read to them as they play quietly. Eventually, the child will again be eager to participate in reading.
- ❑ Share nursery rhymes from your own childhood with your child.
- ❑ Let your child choose the books and pages to read.
- ❑ Point to pictures as you talk about them.
- ❑ Let the child hold the book and turn the pages.
- ❑ Be sensitive to the many questions your child will have, and take the time to explain the answers.
- ❑ Let your child describe the picture and tell the story.
- ❑ Visit the library regularly.
- ❑ Show delight and enthusiasm as you read. Make it fun!

*The information in this handout was obtained from Pat Ebervein, Coordinator of School Services, Children's Memorial Hospital, and from the article, "Ready...Set...Role: Parent's Role in Early Reading" by Amy Wahl in The Reading Teacher, December 1998.