

The ABC's of Reading

- **A**sk questions while reading together. "What do you think will happen next?"
- **B**uy books as gifts for birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, or other holidays.
- **C**hat about what is happening in the book and how it relates to everyday life.
- **D**rop everything and read. Set aside 20 minutes a day during which the whole family reads.
- **E**xamine book illustrations in detail. Select books that have large, bright pictures.
- **F**ind books that interest your child. Make suggestions, but don't turn reading into work.
- **G**ive hints when your child gets stuck on a word.
- **H**ave fun. Smile and enjoy the story. Read with a slow, relaxed voice and be expressive.
- **I**nvoke your child to the bookstore. Take time to lounge in the chairs and browse the books.
- **J**oin in your child's reading successes. Celebrate every small step with sincere praise.
- **K**ids love to receive mail. Send your child a magazine subscription in an area that interests him or her.
- **L**earn to read with, and not just to, your child daily. Read aloud, share ideas, and answer questions.
- **M**odel reading. Share with your child, whether you're reading for information or for entertainment.
- **N**ever force your child to read. If you're both too tired or discouraged to read, take a break.

- Offer your child a variety of reading materials, such as books, magazines, cereal boxes, comics, and newspapers.
- Predict story elements, draw conclusions, and retell the story with your child.
- Quiz your child at the end of a story. Informally, of course!
- Reread books to familiarize your child with words and to build self-confidence.
- Sing songs, recite poetry, and do finger-plays to help develop language and listening skills.
- Try to help your child understand that it's okay to make mistakes.
- Understand that reading is developmental and that it takes time and practice to become fluent.
- Visit your local library on a regular basis. Sign your child up for his or her own library card.
- Welcome wordless picture books into your collections. They generate conversation and allow the nonreader to create his or her own stories.
- Exhibit patience when your child is selecting books. Your support is empowering.
- You are the most important person in helping your child develop a lifelong love of reading.
- Zealous readers are the result of supportive and nurturing role models.