

## Raising a Reader!

## PARENT ACTIVITY

Reading to your child and talking about the books that you read is one of the best ways to encourage your child to be an enthusiastic and fantastic reader! Reading to your child shows that reading is important, and it is a great way to spend time together. Try to read together every day. Start with a short period of time and gradually add to it as your child grows older.

### *Before you read*

First, find books that your child enjoys. Does (s)he prefer stories or non-fiction books? Providing choices doesn't have to be expensive. Take a trip to your local library and let your child explore the possibilities. Yard sales are also a great resource for finding gently used children's books.

### *While you read*

Next, find a cozy spot to snuggle up and read together. Take some time to look at the book and talk about it before you begin reading. Read the title to your child and look at the illustrations on the cover. You might even want to look at a couple of pages of the book before reading.

Asking good questions like "What do you think this book will be about?" or "What do you think might happen?" help to get your child thinking about the story. Then read together to find out! Point to the words as you read, and talk about the book as you go. Encourage your child to think about the story by asking, "What do you think will happen next?"

### *After you read*

After reading, close your time together with a few more good thinking questions like, "What was your favorite part of the book?," "Why was it your favorite?," or "If you could be a character in the book, who would you like to be and why?"

Read together often and make it fun! Use different voices for different characters. Sing along to song lyrics. Let your child read and sing along with you. Enjoy your time together as you raise a reader!