

Tips for Reading Aloud

- ☺ Begin reading to your child as soon as possible. A child is never too young to be read to.
- ☺ Be sure to use books with repetitions, predictable stories and rhyming words
- ☺ Find a time to read when you can both relax and enjoy it—try bedtime, naptime, snack time, after dinner. Try to make it the same time every day.
- ☺ Get comfortable. Find a cozy spot to read and make sure the TV and other distractions are off. Turn off the phone.
- ☺ Read the book or story yourself before you read it to your child.
- ☺ If your child doesn't like a book, switch to another. If he or she isn't in the mood, stop and try again later.
- ☺ Start with picture books that have only a few sentences on the page, then gradually move to books with more and more words.
- ☺ Go to the library with your children regularly. Ask the librarian to recommend books and book lists. Get your children their own library cards.
- ☺ Build a home collection of books. Shop at garage and book sales. Trade books with friends. Books are great gifts.
- ☺ Encourage your children to look at books on their own. Let them take books to bed and read themselves to sleep.
- ☺ You don't have to be a great reader, just read from the heart.
- ☺ Make it fun. It's not a lesson.
- ☺ Talk about the stories with your child.