

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ

Preparing Your Child To Read

Talking

Give your child a chance to talk about themselves and their interests. Encourage talk about what you have done together as a family (watched a sporting game, gone for a walk, had a visit to a friend, etc.)

Praising

Develop in your child a feeling of confidence and independence by giving praise and some responsibility.

Drawing

Encourage your child to draw pictures and create scrap-books. Write down words your child gives you under or on the pictures.

Reading

Read...read...read to your child. Talk about the pictures. Point out signs in the street and at the shops. Show your child how much you enjoy reading.

Writing

Encourage your child to write notes and letters to family and friends. Write down the stories your child tells you. Write down the names of your family and friends. Make cards with your child (thank you, birthday cards etc.)

Television

Watch a program with your child and talk about what you have seen.

Some Suggestions

- Listen to taped stories with your child
- Encourage your child to look for clues. Sensible guessing is a good way to discover how to read new words. *"It begins with...."* *"What is the picture about?"*
- Always reward self correction, ask your child to check a word or think about it some more, never say *"No that is wrong."*
- Read the harder words to your child and explain their meaning so the story can be enjoyed and understood
- Keep a diary or write down your child's comments on experiences you share. *"We went for a long walk."* *"I like cooking."*
- Play games with sounds and words. *"I spy with my little eye something beginning with sh."*

Classroom Encouragement

Talking, reading and writing are linked in shared experiences.

Children are encouraged to write about their work:

- What they build
- Special visits they have made
- Information they have discovered
- What they paint and draw
- Problems they have solved

Children are encouraged to read what interests them:

- Books they have made themselves or have helped to make
- Old favourites and familiar stories
- Books on topics which interest them

Children will discover a reason for reading:

- Sharing news, books and stories with parents, teachers and other students
- Using puppets and games to stimulate language use
- Communication brings enjoyment

Reading is a process in which children, teachers and parents work together and encourage each other to enjoy the meaning of written language.

We help children talk by talking to them, listening to them and encouraging them. In a similar way we help children read.

We can foster reading skills by providing material which interests them and they enjoy.

The most important thing of all is that..... **READING IS FUN!!!**