

Help Your Child Become a Good Reader

Children who read well come from homes in which there are plenty of books, magazines, and newspapers. They come from homes where everyone reads – parents, brothers, and sisters. Their parents encourage reading and make time for it. It's clear that the family enjoys reading.

Here are some things that you can do to help your child become a better reader:

- ✓ **Read aloud.** This is the single most important thing you can do for your children. It's especially important in the pre-school years, but don't stop reading aloud to children after they learn to read. Reading aloud forms an important bond between you and your child.
- ✓ **Teach alphabet letters.** It's never too soon to begin teaching a youngster to recognize letters of the alphabet. Point out letters on signs, cereal boxes, in stories, and in books.
- ✓ **Visit the library.** Make weekly trips to the library. Show your child the variety of things to read (books on hobbies, animals, crafts, sports, famous people, etc...).
- ✓ **Talk about school.** You can increase your children's reading success by helping them look forward to school as a happy place. Always talk about school in a pleasant, positive way.
- ✓ **Monitor performance.** It's important to keep tabs on children's school performance and make sure that they do their homework correctly. Visit or talk with teachers periodically.
- ✓ **Stay involved.** Stay interested and involved in your child's growth as a reader. Encourage your child to read to you. Praise the child's progress. Try to give the child a feeling of "can do" confidence. That's what reading is all about!