

READ, SING, TALK, PLAY...A FAMILY AFFAIR!

READING TIPS FOR EMERGING READERS

Kindergarten aged children may begin to take an interest in print. They may ask you to tell them what the symbols on the signs in the world around them mean, ask you to tell them how to spell words that are important to them and may show a greater interest in trying to read the print in books.

- Make reading a part of your everyday life. Point out words on signs and read the words out loud to them, i.e., the 'Enter' sign on a door at a store, the logo on their favorite cereal, etc. Once your child knows the words, ask them to read the words to you.
- Play games or create fun activities with letters and words. Play games like 'I Spy' using letters or words, use fun materials such as playdough or finger paints to make letters and words, print words with chalk on the driveway, etc. Form letters with items in your house, i.e., a letter P with their pajamas, the first letter of their name with pancake mix or carrot strips, etc.
- Choose your child's favorite story book and ask them to help you read some of the words. Introduce poetry, magazines, comics, information books, joke books, etc.
- Find easy leveled readers (i.e. Road to Reading Books) which allow your child to progress through levels at their reading ability. Books with only a few pages, one to three short sentences per page, large print, helpful pictures, and familiar words will help your child read with success. When children think they can read, they want to read more.



Most of all, fit reading into your daily routine. Not only will this introduce reading as an important life skill, but also will allow you to spend some quality time together. Reading with drama and expression (i.e., different voices for different characters, louder tone if someone is yelling, softer tone if someone is whispering, sad voice if someone is sad) helps children learn to read as they talk (with fluency).