

- ✓ Talk to your child from the day of birth. Early language experience builds the foundation of reading success.
- ✓ Read aloud to your child.
- ✓ Young children learn best through direct experience with their environment. Allow exploration. Set aside a part of the house just for this.
- ✓ Write down what your child says and read it back. Your child will soon discover that reading is a logical extension of speech.
- ✓ Encourage your child to keep a journal.
- ✓ Go for a walk in the woods with your child and collect pine cones. Have your child arrange them from largest to smallest.
- ✓ With your child, make cookies or jello or other foods in which steps must be followed. Read the directions step by step and have the child carry them out. This provides practice in listening and following oral directions.
- ✓ Encourage your child to write a family newspaper.
- ✓ For the beginning reader, label objects around the house.
- ✓ Encourage your child to interview family members and write their biographies.
- ✓ Ask your child to count items for you – the cans on a shelf, apples in a bag, etc.
- ✓ Read along with your child aloud to provide a model for expression and fluency.
- ✓ Write some messages that require written answers.
- ✓ Provide a book shelf for your child's bedroom.
- ✓ Take your child to the library.
- ✓ Conduct an oral scavenger hunt. Ask your child to find all objects in the kitchen that begin with a specific sound – F – fork, fan, fish, food, for example.
- ✓ Ask your child to locate an item in a cupboard by saying it is next to, in front of, over or behind another item.
- ✓ Have your child write words that are interesting or meaningful on an index card. File in a special word file box. Your child can use these words to write stories, etc.
- ✓ Lay different shaped crackers in a row to create a pattern. Have your child try to reproduce the pattern.
- ✓ Do not expect your young child to spend long periods of time at homework. Change the activity often.
- ✓ Let your child measure ingredients when you cook or bake.
- ✓ Ask more “why” questions of your child instead of questions that require a simple yes or no. This stimulates critical thinking.
- ✓ Prepare a shopping list with your child. Read it together while shopping.
- ✓ Have your child make a scrapbook with a beginning letter sound on every page. Provide old magazines for your child to cut out pictures to fit the beginning letter sounds.
- ✓ Establish a message center on a bulletin board. Leave messages for your child often.