**Ways Parents Can Support Reading at Home**

*Adapted from Teachers College Reading and Writing Project*

* Read aloud daily to your child. Talk about the pictures. Make predictions about a story and see if they come true. Read aloud a chapter-book before bed.
* Make a family book that is a collection of stories: favorite stories retold generation after generation or stories of family events (first visit by the tooth fairy). Any time that stories are recorded, younger children can dictate to an older family member.
* Help your child find a place in your home that is his/her favorite reading spot. A place where he/she can read comfortably with little distraction. Put a basket of books near the spot. Every now and then, put a “literacy gift” in their basket to discover and explore.
* Help your child notice people reading all around them. Watch other people read. Count all the people on a bus, in a library or café reading. Read signs posted all around you.
* Take books on trips with you. Read to your child on vacation or during a long wait at the doctor’s office. Encourage the people you are visiting to read to your child aloud.
* Encourage your child to read aloud to younger siblings, cousins, neighbors, even stuffed animals!
* Subscribe to a children’s magazine and have the magazine sent directly to your child. Show interest when it arrives. “Show me your favorite article.” “I love that picture of \_\_\_\_\_\_.” Popular magazines include: Highlights, Click, Ranger Rick, Sports Illustrated for Students, and National Geographic Junior. Large bookstores have many magazines to choose from. Find your favorite magazine and take one of the subscription cards located inside it.
* Visit bookstores and libraries with your child. Window shop as you pass a bookstore, look at the books and imagine the storylines inside them. Then go in and see if your predictions came true.
* Let your children see you read for pleasure. Share vocabulary, quotes, characters, and the story with them. Compare similarities and differences between your book and the books your children are reading.
* Talk to your children about how your parents read to you or told you stories.
* When you’re riding in the car, tell your children a story about when you were little or tell them a story about something that happened at work that day. Leave off the ending and let them provide an ending.
* Have your children select three things they want to include in a story. Make up a story that includes those three things. For example, the selections might be a princess, a race car, and an ice cream cone. The children will love helping you find clever ways to include three things in the story.
* Try different ambiances for reading a story aloud or storytelling. If it’s a scary story, tell it in the dark or read it with flashlights. If it’s a story about when your child was little, bring out an old toy and hold it as you tell the story. Try themes in your family literacy events. This works naturally with holidays. Find books about the First Thanksgiving and read them aloud. Find pictures of the Thanksgiving holiday and make a collage. Explore foods that go with the Thanksgiving holiday. Make some of these foods and let everyone help read the recipe and prepare the foods. Trade stories about Thanksgiving.