

READING TIPS FOR PARENTS

KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN 5-6 YEARS OLD

Developmental

The child:

- Understands that print goes from left to right.
- Is learning the letters and sounds of the alphabet.
- Knows simple words like the, and, mom, etc.
- Begins to understand that print carries a message.
- Starts to read signs, food packages, and other everyday items.
- Likes being read to and has favorite books and stories.
- May be reading simple stories.

Techniques:

- Read out loud and talk about stories every day.
- Get your child a library card and go to the library regularly. Request songs and rhymes on tape.
- Choose books that are repetitive and full of rhyme, as well as those with longer sentences and more complex illustrations.
- Read and say nursery rhymes and sing songs together.
- Talk with your child's teacher often about your child's work.
- Let your child see you reading for fun and work.
- Talk about how you use reading during your day.
- Take time each day to talk about school and share your day.
- Encourage your child to try simple writing tasks (help with grocery lists, presents, etc.).
- Listen to your child.

GENERAL TIPS FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

- Choose a quiet spot for you and your child
- Read aloud at least 15 minutes a day to your child
- Establish a routine time and place to read to your child (not just bed time)
- Talk with your child when you play and do daily activities together.
- Visit the library/bookstore with your child to attend story times, choose books to read at home, etc.
- Obtain library cards for yourself and your children.
- Make a special place in your home where your child can read and write.
- Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.

- Keep washable, nontoxic crayons and markers and paper where your child can reach them.
- Take books and writing supplies whenever you leave home, so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- Show your child how you read every day for fun and work.
- Point out to your children the printed words in your home and in the community.
- Talk with your children about their experiences.
- Encourage your child to read independently in his or her own way (reading words that aren't really in print to tell a story.)
- Verbally "label" familiar objects as you talk with your child.
- Talk to your child as if he or she is a reader now (in process).
- Listen to your child.
- Talk about how you see reading every day.
- Talk about every day happenings. Explain what you are doing and how things work.
- Make your reading fun by using different voices for different parts of the story.
- Talk about the book that you are reading with your child. Help him or her to make connections.