

## Simple Reading Activities

Reading together is the single most important way to help children get ready to read. Reading together increases vocabulary and general knowledge. It helps children learn how print books work. Shared reading also helps children develop an interest in reading. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn how to read themselves.

- Read every day.
- Make shared reading interactive. Before you begin a book, look at the cover and predict what the book is about. Have your child turn the book's pages. Ask questions as you read and listen to what your child says. When you finish the book, ask your child to retell the story.
- Use books to help teach new words. Books can teach less common words, words that children may not hear in everyday conversation. As you read, talk about what these words mean.
- Reading predictable books increases children's vocabulary by using repetitive language patterns and phrases, which engage children in "reading" before they actually learn to read.
- Information books (nonfiction) books also are a great way to learn new words, as well as new information. Information books often have more complex vocabulary than other books. This helps children to become more word conscious and interested in learning even more words.