

Literacy Tips & Tricks

- **15 minutes every day** - Read with your child every day for at least 15 minutes. Add shared readings to your bedtime routine.
- **Make predictions** – Before reading a book with your child look at the title, the cover illustration, and a few pictures. What do you think will happen? What's the book about? After reading see if you and your child were right.
- **Talk about how books work** – Talk about how to hold the book, show your child how to read the pages from the left page to the right page, follow the text with your finger while reading, and talk about how the pictures relate to the words.
- **Make reading fun** – While you are reading make sure your child can see the pictures, use voices for the characters, change the speed or tone of your voice to match descriptive words, have your child repeat fun words and phrases, or use sound effects.
- **Ask questions** – During the story ask questions such as:
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - Why did that happen?
 - What do you think that word means?
- **Listen** – Give your child an opportunity to ask questions and make comments while reading. It's important to interact during the story.
- **Know when to stop** – If your child is fidgety, uninterested, or getting upset take a break. Forcing your child to continue will not help either of you.
- **Read everywhere** – Point out print everywhere you go. Read signs and labels. Talk about common words and what the signs/labels mean.
- **Look at words** – Talk about how words look. Practice breaking words into individual sounds and then blending the sounds together to make the word. Each word is separated by spaces. Each sentence ends with a punctuation mark and begins with a capital letter.
- **Look at letters** – Look at the individual letters. What sounds do they make? Trace the letters with your fingers. Make nonsense words by blending letter sounds together. Change the beginning sound of a word to make a rhyming word.
- **Read it again** – Read favorite books again and again with your child.