

## Reading Tips for Parents

- Get **face to face** with your child when reading together. Try sitting opposite each other so you can see your child's face and eyes. It gives you a chance to see what your child is looking at and for them to watch while you read!
- **Let your child choose the book today** – even if it means reading the same story again! Children love to hear the same stories over and over. The more your child hears you repeat the same words the more his/her vocabulary will grow.
- **Read the story using your own words.** Always feel free to change the words in a book and tell the story using simpler or more familiar words. Or, point out and discuss any new words. For example, "This word says 'ostrich'. An ostrich is a kind of bird that runs really fast!"
- **Point to the words in the book as you read them.** Run your fingers along the line as you read. This helps bring your child's attention to the words on the page and the awareness that in English we read from left to right.
- Be sure to **point to pictures and label them** as you read. A great way to "read" a book together is not reading the words at all! The pictures in a book can tell a story all on their own and are interesting for your child to look at.
- Read a little of the book, then **wait to give our child time to join in.** Wait before turning the page to give your child time to look at the pictures and ask questions. Or, stop and ask questions about the pictures, what is happening in the story, or what might happen next.
- **Change your voice to match each character in the story.** Using new and silly voices are a great way to make books more interesting and fun for your child to listen to.
- Try to **add sounds** (e.g., car sounds, animal sounds) or actions (e.g., clapping, waving, or marching) that match the story. Using new sounds or actions are a great way to make books more interesting and fun for your child to listen to.
- Most importantly ...have **fun reading together.**