

# HELPING YOUR CHILD READ



## Read to younger children daily.

Children who have been read to — early and often — develop important reading concepts. They also see people in their lives who value reading and books.

Parents and caregivers are the best role models. Show your children that reading is important by reading yourself!



## Give books and magazines to your children as gifts.

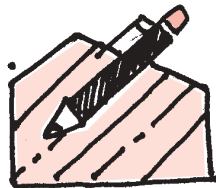
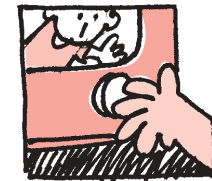
Yard sales and flea markets are good places to buy books inexpensively. Let children select books that interest them. Having reading materials at home will encourage children to read more often.

## Plan trips to the library and bookstores.

The public library is a wonderful place to help children discover — and keep — their joy for reading. Libraries offer extended reading activities free of charge. Be sure to also check out story hours and author visits at local bookstores!



**Turn off the television!** Children need quiet time without distractions. Providing it will encourage children to read more often and for longer periods of time.

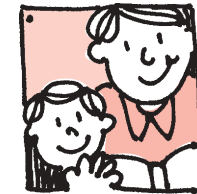


## Encourage your children to write.

Even very young children can and should explore with print. Beginning readers can build their skills through writing. Write with your children! Letters and postcards are one way to start. Another idea is to set up a message center where members of your family can write to each other. You can also put up magnetic letters on the refrigerator to invite young children to write.



**Talk to children about what they have read.** Ask them to tell you about stories and to talk about their feelings about the books they have read. These activities will help children understand what they have read.



## Remember that reading is important for children of all ages.

As children grow older, books can expand their vocabulary and deepen their thinking skills. Encourage older children to spend free time reading books they enjoy.