

## *Suggestions for Reading Aloud to Children*

Reading aloud to children is important because it helps them acquire knowledge and skills they will need to be successful in later life situations. It is the single most important activity for building knowledge.

Reading aloud will also help children acquire the knowledge they will need to be successful readers. Some of the things young children can learn may seem basic, but are so important:

- Knowledge of printed letters and words
- Relationship between sound and print (phonemic awareness skills)
- The meanings of words
- General information about the world they live in
- Awareness of the variety of books, print, and writing styles
- Pleasure
- Reading for a purpose
- Connection of spoken language to written language

Suggestions for reading aloud to young children:

- Be enthusiastic: Be excited and enthusiastic and your emotions will transfer!
- Make reading books enjoyable
- Change your voice and facial expressions
- Make sure children are comfortable
- Read aloud to children frequently (3-4 times daily)
- Establish regular reading times
- Help children notice new information
- Point out pictures as they relate to the story
- Explain words they may not know to help increase vocabulary
- Ask children questions before and after reading
- Ask children questions as you read and have them make predictions
- Encourage children to talk about the book
- Read many kinds of books
- Choose books to help you teach
- Reread favorite books
- Engage children as often as possible
- Read in small groups, large groups and individually
- Show the children the cover of the book and the title, author's name, illustrator, etc.
- Take advantage of "teachable" moments