# Help Your Child Become a Reader

* Read aloud to your child as often as possible. Remember that children of all ages love to hear books read aloud. Keep reading to your child even after he/she learns to read.
* Talk about what you read. Language and thinking skills develop when children talk.
* Have your child read aloud to you. Keep it fun and enjoyable.
* Get a library card. Make visiting the library a special weekly event.
* Make sure your child owns some books. Encourage relatives to give books as gifts.
* Encourage your child to read to others. Brothers, sisters, grandparents and friends enjoy sharing favorite stories.
* Let your child see you reading a variety of printed material: newspapers, magazines, books, forms, recipes, etc. Parents are the most important role models.
* Provide opportunities to write. Allow your child to make grocery lists, send thank-you letters, write notes to friends and relatives, and even keep a journal.
* Monitor television viewing. Set time limits and make good decisions about which programs are suitable for viewing. Watch television together and discuss program content.
* Become involved with your child’s school. If you show an interest, your child will know the home-school connection is important and will appreciate your support.
* Listen to your child. Your attention will build your child’s self-esteem while he/she develops oral language confidence.
* Subscribing to any of the following children’s magazines will encourage reading at home:
  + - *Sesame Street Magazine (ages 2-6)*
    - *Your Big Backyard (ages 3-8)*
    - *Ranger Rick (ages 4-9)*
    - *Zoobooks (ages 4-12)*
    - *Sports Illustrated for Kids (ages 7-13)*
    - *National Geographic World (ages 8-13)*
    - *Penny Power (ages 8-14)*
    - *3-2-1 Contact (ages 8-14)*

**Above all, trust your instincts; take time with your child**

**and appreciate your child as a unique individual.**