

General tips to support Reading

- **Spend time in conversation-** help your child to develop vocabulary and knowledge of the world. Label what you see and explain how things work.
- **Play with language-** help your child listen to rhymes and letter sounds. Read nursery rhymes and other rhyming books. See how many rhyming words you can think of together: hop, top, bop, mop, lop, stop, drop, and flop. Use words that start with the same letter (alliteration) and help your child to hear the letter sounds- e.g. 'Big Bob bounced a ball.
- **Teach your child about letters and words.** Notice words and letters in the world around you. Read cereal boxes and favourite snacks. Post your child's name in his or her room. Point out the letters in your child's name that you see in signs and billboards around town.
- **Make books available-** Make learning materials such as library books, newspapers, pencils and crayons available at home.
- **Read to your children-** Read with them every day. Listen to them read aloud. Don't stop reading to them once they have learnt to read.
- **Talk to your child about what you have read-** Talking about the story helps your child to develop vocabulary and critical thinking skills.
- **Dig deeper into the story** - Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like 'Why do you think he did that?'
- **Take control of the television** - It's difficult for reading to compete with the TV and x-boxes etc. Encourage reading as a distraction free activity.
- **I read to you, you read to me** - Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Encourage the children to make their own story up by looking at the pictures. Children enjoy this special time with their parents.
- **Show that reading is important-** Read in front of you child and encourage them to read too.