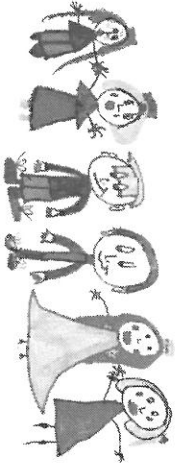


# Reading Together

## Parent Notes



The *Reading Together* video is a Keys to Life parent education resource. It demonstrates how to encourage successful reading habits with your child. Helpful hints are included to use when reading together—a special time to share the wonder and excitement contained within the pages of a book.

### How does reading develop?

Reading is about **constructing meaning** from print. Successful readers use a range of information when reading including their:

- ★ knowledge of how our language is spoken (structure)
- ★ previous experience and understanding of the topic (meaning)
- ★ knowledge of letters and sounds and how they are represented in print (visual information).

Rather than rely on one source of information such as sounding out words, they use their knowledge of language and what they are reading about as well as the print when reading.

Successful readers expect what they read to make sense and are encouraged to predict what is coming up. They correct themselves when something does not make sense.

### How can you help?

(View the video, *Reading Together*, then read on.)

#### Special time

Make a special time away from distractions to read together each day. Reading together should be a comfortable, happy routine where you and your child enjoy books together.

#### Involve children in choosing books

- To enable children to get an idea of what the book may be about, encourage them to:
- ★ browse through the book
  - ★ talk about the pictures
  - ★ read some parts of the book
  - ★ read the blurb or the contents page.

#### Get to know the book

- When setting down to read together, spend time getting to know the book first:
- ★ talk about the cover and the title
  - ★ say the author and illustrator names
  - ★ look through the pictures and discuss what the book might be about.

#### Reading to..., Reading with..., Reading by...

Share books in a variety of ways: reading to the child, reading **with** the child and reading done **by** the child.

Depending on the kind of book being read and its degree of difficulty, you will need to decide whether it will be read **to** the child, **with** the child or **by** the child

Reading **to** the child shows how reading works—you are demonstrating what you do when you read and showing that reading is an enjoyable and desirable activity.

Reading **with** the child occurs when you join in together to share the book. This is very satisfying for the child who gains confidence and see themselves as the reader.

Reading **by** the child—listening to your child read the book by themselves.

#### The 3 Ps—Pause, Prompt and Praise

When the reading is **by** the child use the **3 Ps—Pause Prompt and Praise** to help.

- ★ **Pause** when the child is unsure or hesitates; wait a few seconds. Allow time for the child to check the pictures and the words to work out the meaning for themselves.

- ★ Then give a **Prompt**. Prompts are suggestions or clues. Encourage the child to have a closer look. Look at the pictures for a clue. Ask a question or give a hint that will lead the child to the right words. Try: *What word might make sense? What would sound right? What does it start with?* If the word makes sense, allow the child to continue reading. If the word doesn't make sense encourage the child to have another try then tell the child the word.

- ★ **Praise** all efforts. If the child is still unsure after a try, tell them the word so they don't lose the meaning of the story. Be positive and encouraging so they will continue to try.

Be careful not to draw the **Pause, Prompt, Praise** process out so long as to take away from the enjoyment, meaning and understanding of the book.

#### What other ways can you help?

- ★ Show an interest in reading. Let your child see you reading.
- ★ Read signs, recipes, junk mail packets, boxes and other household items with your child.
- ★ Books made at school are a valuable source of meaningful reading material that relate to a shared learning experience such as a trip to the zoo or a special event. Talk about the experience. Read through the book together. Find your child's work and read it together.

- ★ When a favourite book is frequently brought home from school:

- Try encouraging expression when reading. Demonstrate how your child can do this by using expression when you read.

- Ask the child to retell the story instead of reading it all the way through. Perhaps the child could make up a new ending for the book.

- Simply share in your child's love of a favourite book by listening to him/her re-read something they really enjoy.

- ★ Join the local library. Regularly borrow books about interests and hobbies or things seen on television.

- ★ Give books or children's magazines for gifts or treats.

- ★ Choose books with rhyme, rhythm, repetition and predictable ideas.

- ★ Encourage care of books. Establish a space for books to be kept when not in use.

- ★ Tell stories. They may be traditional tales, memories from your childhood, stories in verse, funny anecdotes and so on.

- ★ If you are able to, read and tell stories in other languages.

- ★ Provide pencils and paper for children to create their own books or for drawing and writing about favourite books.

- ★ Keep in touch with the school. Visit the classroom, talk about the things you notice about your child's reading, make comments in journals that are sent home to you.

