

Encouraging Reading at Home

As you know, our *Reading Counts!* program is underway. Your child has started reading to reach a challenging personal reading goal. This list of ideas can help you support your child's progress.

Read Every Day Make reading to and with your child a part of every day. Take turns reading newspaper articles, or favorite paragraphs from whatever you happen to be reading. Talk about the writing style, perspective used, and any unfamiliar words.

Ask Questions About Reading Find out what *Reading Counts!* book your child is reading right now and talk about it. Is it as good as the last one? Is the main character sympathetic or not? Can your child predict what will happen next in the book? What book will be next?

Set up a Reading Area Creating a cozy home reading corner is a great way to encourage your child to read. If you've got room for two chairs, spend some quiet time reading together, too.

Define Unfamiliar Words Be prepared to help your child discover new words while reading. It's a good idea to keep a dictionary handy, just in case you're both stumped!

Write Notes Use a family bulletin board to leave written messages to family members every day. Encourage your child to write messages for the board, too.

Offer Reading Rewards Give your child special attention or a specific reward, such as a book, every time your child finishes five or ten books and completes the quizzes at school.

Share Stories Encourage your child to read stories to siblings or other children.

Daily Word Open the dictionary once a day at a random spot to come up with a Word of the Day. See who can use the word in a sentence more times during the day.

Library Visits Make weekly library visits a part of your family routine. Getting to know your public librarian is a great way to find out about new books.

Give the Gift of Reading Magazines and books make great gifts for birthdays and holidays. Consider donating books to the school's *Reading Counts!* program after your child has read them.

Parent/Child Book Club Get together with your child and other parents and children (in the same age range as your child) to form a book club in which parents and children read and discuss the same books.

Turn Off the TV! Give family reading time priority over family viewing time.

