

## READING HINTS TO HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILD

- ❖ When your child brings home their first books, share the excitement with them. At first they will read by remembering the sentence patterns and looking at the pictures. This is a natural stage in learning to read. As they understand more about reading they will use the written words more and the picture cues less. The most important thing is to encourage them to make sense of what they read.
- ❖ Encourage your child to enjoy reading by sharing the story together - let the child hold the book and point to the words.
- ❖ Before reading, look at the book together and talk about it. Look at the picture on the cover; look at all of the pictures and talk about what the story might be about.
- ❖ Read the story together. Listen. Don't jump in with corrections. Let your child continue reading if the story still makes sense eg, "The boy went to his home." instead of "The boy went to his house." is quite acceptable. At the end of the sentence, point to the incorrect word and encourage your child to reread the word correctly (you may need to tell them the word).
- ❖ When your child reads so that the story does not make sense, repeat what they have just said and ask "Does this make sense? Let's read it again."
- ❖ Encourage your child to read for meaning by asking them simple questions about the story, eg, "What was the colour of the dragon in the story?" You may go back through the book asking your child to recognise words or letters.
- ❖ Encourage and praise self-correcting. (When your child realises that what they have read does not make sense, and rereads the sentence correctly.)
- ❖ Help at the time.  
After your child has tried the word, say how close the attempt was, give some other clues, ask for another try, then tell your child the word. **DON'T BE INFURIATED IF YOUR CHILD CAN'T REMEMBER THE SAME WORD THE NEXT NIGHT.** Give the clues again.
- ❖ Praise your child's efforts. This is very important for the child's motivation and confidence.
- ❖ Some phrases that demonstrate acceptance of children's reading include:
  - \* "I like the way you....."
  - \* "I'm glad you enjoy reading....."
  - \* "You're such a good reader/ becoming such a good reader."
  - \* "You read that book so well tonight."
  - \* "Thankyou for sharing that story with me."

ABOVE ALL, ENJOY YOUR READING TIME TOGETHER.