

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD...

Become a Better Reader

(for young children)

- ◆ Hold your child in your lap as you look at and read a book he or she wants to hear. If you don't have books available, use other reading material.
- ◆ Before you read a story to your child, have him or her look at it and predict what will happen by the pictures and other clues. Stop reading at frequent intervals to ask your child to guess what will happen next.
- ◆ Leave off the last word or words of certain phrases or sentences as you read aloud. Your child will learn to anticipate what's coming and supply the missing words.
- ◆ Right after you finish reading a story, have your child "read" it to you. Listen eagerly and pay no attention to accuracy.

(for all ages)

- ◆ Read to and with your child every day.
- ◆ Take regular trips to the public library together.
- ◆ Ask your child's teacher how to use "Whisper Reading."
- ◆ When your child is reading to you, don't rush in to supply the missing words when they hesitate.
- ◆ If your child asks for help while reading, you might say, "Let's look at the picture and see if we can figure out what that word might be." OR "Skip that word for now and we'll come back to it later." OR simply tell them the word.

Become a Better Writer

- ◆ Encourage all of your child's writing efforts, accurate or not. Focus on helping him or her develop a positive attitude about writing.
- ◆ Whenever your child writes something, give it proper attention. Put it on the refrigerator and praise their efforts.
- ◆ Call attention to the many times in a day or week when you need writing. Examples: making a grocery list, E-mail, writing out a check, etc.
- ◆ Work with your child to write a letter to a neighbor or relative who would enjoy receiving mail. Ask for a mailed reply addressed to your child.

Become Better in Math

- ◆ Use playing cards in simple games like "War" and "Go Fish." Show your child how to figure out the value of the cards by counting the spots. Teach your child how cards with more spots "win" over cards with fewer spots.
- ◆ Playing board games. Have your child count out loud the number of spaces he or she moves for each turn. Call attention to whose piece is closest to the beginning and end of the game.
- ◆ Set math facts to familiar tunes. Many children can learn math facts quicker when music, rhyme, and rhythm are used to teach them.
- ◆ Encourage your child to notice numbers in everyday things. Examples: Count the items as you put them into the grocery cart, count backwards instead of forwards.