



## Helping Your Child Become a Better Reader

Dear Families,

The following guidelines will help you have a productive “book talk” with your child. Use these strategies to help your child’s reading comprehension and ability to figure out a new or unfamiliar word. Have fun reading!

### Before You Read

- Talk about the cover, title, author, illustrator, and topic of the book.
- Think of questions knowing that we’ll read for answers
- Read the print on the outside of the book.
- Make predictions about the story.
- Skim the pictures, charts, and/or graphs. We call this a picture walk.
- Read the headings and the bold type.

### While You Read

- Stop several times and check to see if your child understands the story so far.
- Check the predictions you made and make more about the what may be upcoming in the story.
- Make “pictures” in your heads as you read. Share your “pictures.”
- Use the Five Handy Helpers when your child comes to a new or unknown word.
  1. Think about what the story is about and what is happening in the story. What word would make sense?
  2. Check the pictures. Is there a hint in the illustration? What might the word be?
  3. Go back and get your mouth ready to say the word. Look at the beginning sound and make that sound.
  4. Look for chunks. Chunks are smaller parts of words that make up bigger words (an in man, at in cat).
  5. Guess the word and check to see if it sounds right. Would we say it that way in English?
- Read all the captions. Explore the glossary or other features of informational texts if reading in that genre.

### After Reading

- Talk about the parts of the story we liked the most. Explain why.
- Ask your child to retell parts of or the entire story.
- Draw or write about favorite parts or special connections with the story.
- Sometimes reread favorite parts. Rereading is GOOD for young readers!
- Sometimes reread for details in the story.
- Sometimes predict what might happen if the story continued or what might have happened just before the story began.

Thank you for your help at home! Remember: read, read, read, and talk, talk, talk about those books!

Sincerely,