

## Supporting your child to read

Some tips for parents to support early reading (from Reading Rockets.org)

- Don't leave home without it  
Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading!
- Once is not enough  
Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps children read more quickly and accurately.
- Dig deeper into the story  
Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Clifford did that?"
- Take control of the television  
It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.
- Be patient  
When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind your child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.
- Pick books that are at the right level  
Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.
- Play word games  
Have your child sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.
- I read to you, you read to me  
Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Children enjoy this special time with their parents.
- Gently correct your young reader  
When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he or she overlooked or read incorrectly. Many beginning readers will guess wildly at a word based on its first letter.
- Talk, talk, talk!  
Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the

conversation, and build on words you've talked about in the past.

- Write, write, write!  
Ask your child to help you write out the grocery list, a thank you note to Grandma, or to keep a journal of special things that happen at home. When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he is learning at school.