



## CREATING A HOME READING ENVIRONMENT

 Let your child see you read frequently. Have books, magazines, newspapers, etc. around the house. Your child should know that you believe reading is important.

 Always have books around the house. Place them on low shelves where your children can reach them. Children are curious and will pick up books if they are readily available.

 Try to read aloud to your child each day. Most children enjoy a bedtime story.

 Encourage your children to read aloud to you and to their older and younger siblings. This emphasizes the importance of reading as a sharing activity and could result in discussions about books and the characters and messages they contain.

 Allow your child to select his/her own reading materials.

 Occasionally extend the “lights-out” period for your children, with the provision that the time is used for reading.

 See that your child has a library card and try to take him/her to the library on a regular basis.

 Buy books for your children. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.

 Pass along family traditions by reading the same books to your children that your parents read to you. Let them know that the books were read to you as a child.

 Provide a special place where your child keeps his/her own reading materials.

 Have books available especially for sharing, such as an illustrated Mother Goose, a children’s song book, a book of children’s poetry, an illustrated folktale collection, a children’s atlas, or a children’s magazine.

 Set aside a regular time for reading in your family that is independent of school work. Consider 20 minutes before “lights-out”, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 10 minutes of reading a day can improve your child’s reading skills.

 Remember to pack favorite books for family trips.

 Let your children see you reading for pleasure.

