

## The **ABCs** of Literacy for Parents

**A**ctions speak louder than words. Let your children see you enjoying reading by turning off the TV to read a newspaper or a book instead. They will learn that you value reading and see it as an important and enjoyable activity.

**B**e aware of the amount and kind of screen time your children have. Establish time limits, watch television with your children and talk together about what you've seen.

**C**omputer time can be reading time. Let your children help you surf the Internet to look for information. Teach them how to send messages and letters to friends through email. Look for computer programs that will build your children's reading skills and for websites that include books for children to read.

**D**on't stop reading aloud just because your child is older and can read on their own. Children enjoy hearing stories and talking about them long after they can read for themselves. Read aloud to your children every day.

**E**ncourage bedtime reading. Help your older child develop a bedtime reading habit by encouraging them to keep their own personal library and supplying a bedside reading lamp. Children who have trouble heading to bed will enjoy the chance to stay awake and read a little bit longer!

**F**ind a magazine that your child enjoys and buy a subscription. Children love to receive their own mail.

**G**et pictures of your children reading and put them up. Help them really see themselves as readers!

**H**ave your child's eyesight and hearing tested regularly. If you suspect your child may be having difficulty, call your pediatrician and seek assistance.

**I**nclude the idea of reading as an activity with a purpose. For example, read to find information when planning a family holiday or as preparation before buying a new pet.

**J**oin the public library with your children and visit it often. Allow lots of time for browsing during each visit. Remember that, besides having a wealth of books, the public library also has CDs, DVDs and computers with free access to the Internet for cardholders. Encourage your children to think of the library as a resource for fun and learning throughout life.

**K**eep the fun in reading. The most important thing you can do to help your children become successful readers is to communicate that reading is both valuable and enjoyable.

**L**isten to the stories your children tell. Encourage them to write down their ideas and experiences. Make up stories together.

**M**ake reading a habit. Put aside a special time to read together every day. Let your children know that reading together is important and special to you.