

## Ideas for Promoting Early Reading

So your child is showing interest in words and reading. What an exciting time! Reading opens up a whole new world for your child. It also puts an end to you being able to "spell" your way out of situations that you don't want your child to know about! There are so many ways to promote early reading skills and no one way is better than another. Try a few of these suggestions and see which ones work best for you and your family. Remember, the most important thing is to keep it fun and enjoyable so that it doesn't become a chore.

- \*Use an old book that you are finished with and a set of highlighter pens. Have your child go on a "word hunt" for some common sight words. For example have them use the blue pen to find all of the "and" words, the yellow pen to find all of the "for" words, etc.
- \*When driving around town go on a "word hunt" using traffic signs. Look for "STOP" "TRAIN" "YIELD" "GAS" etc.
- \*When reading to your child use your finger to "track" the words and pause occasionally to see if your child can read sight words such as *and, for, is, the, as, to, of*. You can also have them sound out the main characters' name and let them read that name each time it appears in the story.
- \*Find stories that are interesting to your child so that they will be able to stay focused for a longer period of time. Don't be surprised if they want to re-read a favorite story several times. Repetition is the key to learning how to read!
- \*Most of all have fun with this amazing time together!!