

## WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH READING AT HOME

### SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

Help your child find a quiet, comfortable place to read.

Have your child see you as a reading model.

Read aloud to your child. Reread favorite stories.

Read with your child.

Discuss the stories you read together.

Keep reading time enjoyable and relaxed.



### RESPONDING TO ERRORS IN READING

Based on the way most of us were taught to read, we have told the child to “sound it out” when he comes to an unknown word. While phonics is an important part of reading, reading for meaning is the primary goal. To produce independent readers who monitor and correct themselves as they read, the following prompts are recommended before saying “sound it out.”

Give your child 5 to 10 seconds. See what he/she attempts to do to help himself.

“What would make sense there?”

“What do you think that word could be?”

Use the picture to help you figure out what it could be.

Go back to the beginning and try that again.

“Skip over it and read to the end of the sentence (or paragraph). Now what do you think it is?”

“Look at how that word begins. Start it out and keep reading.”

Tell your child the word.

Most important, focus on what your child is doing well and attempting to do. When your child is having difficulty and trying to work out the trouble spots, comments such as the following are suggested.

“Good for you. I like the way you tried to work that out.”

“That’s a good try. Yes, that word would make sense there.”

“I like the way you looked at the picture to help you.”

“I like the way you went back to the beginning of the sentence and tried that again. That’s what good reader’s do.”

“You are becoming a good reader, I’m proud of you.”

**But how do I know if a book is too easy or too hard?**



**USE THE FIVE-FINGER METHOD**

**Open up the book to the first page (or any page) and read it.**

<p>If you find <b>one</b> word (or less) on the page that you have trouble reading...</p>	<p>Give the "Thumbs Up" signal to show that you knew all but one word. This book will be pretty easy for you.</p>
<p>If you have trouble reading <b>two</b> words on a page...</p>	<p>Stick out your thumb and first finger to show that you knew all but two words. This will make the shape of an "L," which stands for "Learning." You may have to have some help reading this book, but it will be a good learning book for you.</p>
<p>If you have trouble reading <b>three</b> words on a page...</p>	<p>Hold up your middle three fingers. This makes a "W," which stands for "Warning!" It doesn't mean you can't read the book, but it's a warning that the book may be frustrating for you.</p>
<p>If you have trouble reading <b>four, five, or more</b> words on a page...</p>	<p>Flash all five fingers. This book would be a good book for someone to read to you.</p>