

Reading with your Young Child

- Make sure that time is set aside every day to sit together and share books.
- Let your child be involved in choosing books from a library.
- Let them practice retelling the story in their own words.
- Take your time while reading.
 - Show them the cover and invite them to say what they see
 - Tell them the title and who the author and the illustrator are
 - Talk about the pictures, characters and events in the story as you are reading
- Encourage your child to use their imagination or to make predictions about what will happen in a story.
- Read clearly and with interest. If you are interested in what you are reading, your child will also be interested.
- Give different voices to the different characters in the story.
- Casually point out some of the letters in the book. 'There is a "J". Your name starts with a "J" too.'
- At times, run your finger below the text as you read aloud to demonstrate the left to right direction of the words.
- Extend the learning.
 - Give your child materials to draw the story
 - Use drama to act out parts of the story
 - Visit places depicted in the story – a farm, the forest
- Choose some books with repetition and rhyme and read aloud with pauses to allow your child time to fill in the words.
- Stop reading to look and ask open-ended questions about the story, pictures and characters.
- Introduce books that are reflective of cultural diversity.

