

## READING TIPS

Books are wonderful learning tools. Reading to a child also nourishes close relationships. Children who learn in childhood that books are fun are more likely to remain readers throughout life.

Long before they can read, children can participate in stories. Active involvement helps increase learning and fun.

- Even very young children can turn the pages. This gives practice in eye-hand coordination.
- Relate the action and pictures in the book to the child's own life. "You have a red ball, too, don't you?" "In the story, Peter has a baby sister. You have a baby brother."
- Ask questions as you read. "What do you think Melissa will find when she opens the box?" "What color is the dog?" "How would you feel if you were lost in the store? What would you do?"
- With familiar books, let the child play the part of one character. Don't look for word-for-word accuracy. Provide clues, when necessary, to keep the story moving.
- With older children, practice recognizing letters and the sounds they make. Point out the words for familiar objects.