

"Helping Your Child at Home" Checklist

- Read aloud to your child. Research has proved that this is *the* most important thing a parent can do to ensure a child's reading success.
- Have your child read to you.
- Do shared reading. You read a sentence. Your child reads a sentence.
- While in the car have your child read street signs and billboards.
- At the market have your child read product labels.
- Obtain a library card for your child and check out a book.
- Encourage your child to read the newspaper. Discuss articles together.
- Measure objects and rooms in the house together.
- Subscribe to child-oriented magazines. Read them together.
- View television programs together. Discuss them afterwards.
- Create flash cards for your child's particular needs—alphabet recognition, vocabulary words, numbers, math facts, states and capitals, etc. Use flash cards in a variety of game activities.
- Have your child follow a recipe, measure ingredients and prepare a dish.
- Begin a story and have your child finish it.
- Using magazines, go on a phonics picture-hunt looking for pictures of things that begin with specific letters.
- Go on a color, shape, or number walk. Your child points out things that are a particular color or shape, or counts items such as trees, houses and mailboxes.
- Have your child figure change from the grocery or department store.
- Encourage your child to write stories on a typewriter or computer.
- Play games on the refrigerator with magnetic letters and numbers.
- Writes notes to your child. Place them around the house—on the bed, on the door, on the mirror, in a lunchbox.
- Have your child write letters and thank-you notes to friends and relatives.