

Parents as Reading Partners

Dear Parents,

Use the following suggestions to make reading an enjoyable and rewarding experience for you and your child.

- Play little word games with your child. Make up a sentence and leave out a word, for example, *I went to the doctor because I was _____*. Ask your child to tell you what the missing word should be and why.
- Before reading a book aloud, ask your child questions about the story that can be answered by looking at the pictures.
- Read poems and nursery rhymes and leave out a rhyming word. Have your child guess the missing word and explain how he or she got the answer.
- Have your child look only at the pictures of a well-illustrated book and then ask him or her to make up a story to go with them.
- As you read aloud, leave out a word from a sentence (nouns work best) and ask your child to "fill in the blank." Ask your child to identify which clues in the sentence helped him or her identify the missing word.
- As you read aloud, make a silly mistake that affects the meaning of the sentence. See if your child notices and corrects you. If not, stop reading and think aloud as you correct your mistake. This will help teach your child to self-monitor while reading.
- While reading together, have your child look at a paragraph in the story and find all the words that have a specific letter combination, for example, all words ending with *-ing*.

