

## Encourage Your Child to Read: TIPS

Start early. When your child is still a baby, reading aloud to her/him should become part of your daily routine. At first, read for no more than a few minutes at a time, several times a day. As your child grows older, you should be able to tell if she/he wants you to read for longer periods. As you read, talk with your child. Encourage her/him to ask questions and to talk about the story. Ask her/him to predict what will come next. When your child begins to read, ask her/him to read to you from books or magazines that she enjoys.

Make sure that your home has lots of reading materials that are appropriate for your child. Keep books, magazines and newspapers in the house. Reading materials don't have to be new or expensive. You often can find good books and magazines for your child at sales. Ask family members and friends to consider giving your child books and magazine subscriptions as gifts for birthdays or other special occasions. Set aside quiet time for family reading. Some families even enjoy reading aloud to each other, with each family member choosing a book, story, poem or article to read to the others.

Show that you value reading. Let your child see you reading for pleasure as well as for performing your routine activities as an adult—reading letters and recipes, directions and instructions, newspapers, computer screens and so forth. Go with her/him to the library and check out books for yourself. When your child sees that reading is important to you, she/he is likely to decide that it's important to her/him, too



## Talk with Your Child

Find time to talk to your child. Here are a few ideas:

As you walk with your child or ride with her in a car or on a bus, talk with her about what she's doing at TLC. Ask her to tell you about a school assembly or the UOI. Point out and talk about things that you see—funny signs, new cars, interesting people.

As you shop in a store, talk with your child about prices, differences in brands and how to pick out good vegetables and fruit.

As you fix dinner, ask your child to help you follow the steps in a recipe. Talk with her about what can happen if you miss a step or leave out an ingredient.

As you watch TV together, talk with your child about the programs. If you're watching one of her favorite programs, encourage her to tell you about the background of the characters, which ones she likes and dislikes and who the actors are. Compare the program to a program that you liked when you were her age.

As you read a book with your child, pause occasionally to talk to her about what's happening in the book. Help her to relate the events in the book to events in her life: "Look at that tall building! Didn't we see a building like that yesterday?" Ask her to tell you, in her own words what the book was about. Ask her about new words in a book and help her understand what they mean.



## HOW TO ENCOURAGE SUCCESS

Every child has the power to succeed in school and in life and every parent and family member can help. The question is: How can we help our children succeed? The answer comes from a combination of common sense and research about how children learn and about how to prepare them to learn.

You know, as I keep repeating, that children tend to do the same things as their parents do. You are their model. What you say and do in your daily lives can help them to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in themselves as learners. Showing your children that you value education and use it in your daily lives provides them with powerful models and contributes greatly to their success in school.

As your children's first and most important teacher, it is important that you build and keep strong ties to your child's school, especially when they move on from TLC. When parents and families are involved in their children's schools, the children do better and have better feelings about going to school.

Clearly, the hours and days that your child is not in school are important for learning, too. Here are a few things that you can do to help your child make the most of that time:

**Encourage your child to read:** Helping your child become a reader is the single most important thing that you can do to help your child succeed in school—and in life. The importance of reading simply can't be overstated. Reading helps children in all school subjects. More important, it is the key to lifelong learning.

**Talk with Your Child:** Talking and listening play major roles in children's school success. It's through hearing parents and family members talk and through

responding, that young children begin to pick up the language skills they will need if they are to do well. For example, children who don't hear a lot of talking and who aren't encouraged to talk themselves often have problems learning to read, which can lead to other school problems. In addition, children who haven't learned to listen carefully often have trouble following directions and paying attention in class.

**Monitor Homework:** Let your child know that you think education is important and so homework has to be done.

**Monitor TV Viewing and Video Game Playing:** On average, children spend far more time watching TV or playing video games than they do completing homework or other school-related activities. Delay the habit of using the ipad and laptop as a tool for learning or entertainment.

**Encourage Your Child to Use the Library:** Libraries are places of learning and discovery for everyone. Helping your child find out about libraries will set him on the road to being an independent learner.

**Encourage Active Learning:** Children need active learning as well as quiet learning such as reading and doing homework. Active learning involves asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests. Active learning also can take place when your child plays sports, spends time with friends, acts in a school play, plays a musical instrument, visits museums and bookstores and does many of the activities we suggest in the MAG.

That desire to learn is a key to your child's later success. Enjoyment is important! So, if you and your child don't enjoy one activity you have planned, move on to another. You can always return to any activity later on. Enjoy.

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