

## **Parental support**

Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education.

### **Make Reading Fun**

- Read all kinds of material – stories, poems, information books, magazine and newspaper articles, and comics.
- Encourage relatives and friends to give your child books as gifts.
- Take your child to the library and look at interactive CD-ROMs and the Internet, as well as books.
- Subscribe to a magazine for your child. He or she will love receiving mail!

### **Read Every Day**

- Set aside a time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- Choose a variety of books.
- Vary the length of reading time according to your child's age and interests. Several short sessions (of 10 minutes each) may be better than one long session (of 30 minutes).
- When you and your child are away from home, take along books or magazines.

### **Set an Example**

As a parent, you are your child's most important role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or information, he or she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.

### **Talk About Books**

Talking about the books you read is just as important as reading them. Discussing a story or a book with your child helps your child understand it and connect it to his or her own experience of life. It also helps enrich your child's vocabulary with new words and phrases. Here are some ways to help your child acquire skills in comprehension, reasoning, and critical thinking:

- Ask your child about the kinds of books he or she would like to read.
- Talk to your child about your favourite books from childhood.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and to comment on the book – before, during, and after reading it.
- Encourage your child to think critically about the story. Does he or she agree or disagree with the author? Why?
- Give your child time to think about the story, and then ask him or her about it again a few days later.

### **Listen to your child read**

Reading to you gives your child a chance to practise and to improve his or her reading skills. As you listen to your child, remember that your reactions are important. Above all, listen without interrupting. Be enthusiastic and praise your child as often as you can. If possible, be specific with your praise so that your child knows what he or she is doing well.

### **Show that you value your child's efforts**

Remember, your child needs to know that you value his or her efforts. Here are some ways you can show your child that you have confidence in his or her ability to learn:

- Be aware of your child's reading level, but use that information in a positive way.
- Be patient and flexible in your efforts to help your child.
- Show your child that you see him or her as a growing reader, and praise his or her efforts to learn.