

Winter is the perfect time for reading! Reading to your child every day is one of the most important things you can do. But do you get a bit bored with daily reading at times? Here are some ways to make it fun for all:

Ages 0-3:

- Hold your child and cuddle while you read. Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Reading with expression makes it fun for all—you can even try using different voices for the characters in the story!
- Talk about the pictures on each page or ask your child to find something in the pictures.
- Show your child the words on each page by running your finger underneath the words as you read them.
- Stop reading if your child shows signs of losing interest. She will learn quickly that reading is a fun time and that she has your total attention when you are reading together!

Ages 3-5:

- Keep lots of books available in your home—and remember that library books are free!
- Make reading special in whatever way you can—you might make bedtime a little later if your child is reading, or you could give books as gifts for special occasions.
- Let your child choose the book when you read together and tell him how much you LIKE reading with him.
- It's fine to interrupt the story to talk. Ask your child questions as you read such as: "What do you think is going to happen next?" or "How would you feel if that happened to you?" Encourage your child to ask questions as well.
- Read books again and again—this really helps your child. If you're completely bored with a book, try something different such as having your child "read" it to you—he no doubt has it memorized!
- Show the child the cover of the book with the title and author, how we read the words (from left to right, top to bottom), and show her there are spaces between the words and punctuation at the end of a sentence.

Elementary school:

- Keep your kids reading! If s/he likes a certain book, find others that are similar with the same topic or author—your school or public librarian can help.
- Find and talk about connections between what happens in books and what happens in your child's life.
- Try magazines—subscriptions are especially fun because your child gets something just for her in the mail every month.
- Take turns reading to each other at bedtime and talk about what you have read together.
- Offer incentives, such as staying up a bit later to finish a book or offering to buy a favorite book so that your child will have his own copy.