

# GUIDANCE TO FAMILIES:

a menu of activities to encourage literacy

<b>developmental differences</b>	<b>speech and language problems</b> Books that rhyme and/or repeat are particularly important.	<b>autism spectrum disorder (ASD)</b> Have conversations to build oral language and reciprocity. Explore books about feelings.	<b>intellectual disabilities</b> Frequency of reading, rhyming, and word play will be very important.
<b>cerebral palsy (CP)</b> Make sure books are accessible. Lap reading may be difficult.	<b>low vision or blindness</b> Explore word window margins that track the line of print; create sufficient lighting. Tactile books are fun.	<b>hearing loss or deafness</b> Signing and speaking the story may help the child understand books with and without words. Children can tap out rhythm in music books.	<b>attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)</b> Reduce background noise and other distractions. Explore books that increase self-awareness.

## Infants and Toddlers

Respond to your baby's babbles and coos—have back and forth conversations.

Play touching and singing games with your baby's body parts.

Music builds memory and language skills—singing lullabies can calm.

Replace television and technology time with name games, reading, and outdoor activities.

Play peek-a-boo, patty-cake, and puppet games.

Point to and name objects around your baby.

Explore infant/toddler programs at your library.

Cuddle your baby often. Smile and make eye contact.

Use books to help with transitions.

Read daily to your toddler, re-reading his/her favorite books for at least 5–10 minutes.

Make sure the people who take care of your baby make reading and conversations important.

Make it easy for your toddler to reach his/her own books.

Reinforce the sounds of your home language with stories, songs, and poems.

## Preschool and School-age

Allow your child to build a personal library of books.

Have your child apply for his own public library card.

Talk about colors, numbers, letter names, and sounds on street signs, cereal boxes, T-shirts, and other things around your child.

Use the library for free audio books for long trips.

Word play and rhyming are powerful ways to prepare your child to learn to read.

Increase daily reading to 30 minutes.

Once your child is reading, take turns reading to one another.

Build your child's listening skills by reading books with fewer pictures such as **Charlotte's Web** or **The Trumpet of the Swan**.

Keep reading with, and to, your child even once he masters reading.

Bring books in the car, on the bus, to the doctor's office, and anywhere your child is required to wait.

Make sure your child sees and hears **you** reading.

Daily reading routines and reading practice are essential.

Write simple notes to your child using letters and pictures. Have him write back to you.

Word play and rhyming are powerful ways to prepare your child to learn to read.

Deepen your partnership with your child's teacher by agreeing on frequent and specific modes of communication.