

*One of the highest predictors of reading success is whether a child has been read aloud to interactively before attending school. Missed that opportunity? It is never too late to start. Here are some tips to get you started reading to your child daily.*

- *Begin to read to your child as soon as possible.*
- *Try to set aside time every day for reading aloud. Start with 10 minutes. Increase to 10–15 minutes.*
- *Remember that the art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually. Vary the length and subject matter of the reading.*
- *Consider both picture books and chapter books.*
- *Make the reading setting a cozy place. Hold the book so your child can see the pictures and the words. Take time to look at the pictures. Let your child turn the pages.*
- *Make this fun. Let your child pretend to read. Offer positive reinforcement. Read books that include rhymes. Read silly stories. Try using special effects.*
- *Read a book more than once. Your child will attend to new information. For the first reading, your child might focus on pictures. In subsequent readings, the focus may be on rhyming words, characters, or plot.*
- *Make this interactive. Discuss what you are reading before, during, and after the reading. Ask who, what, when, where, why, and how questions. Include connections from self-to-self, self-to-text, and self-to-world. Let your child interrupt with questions. Let the open-endedness lead to further discussion.*