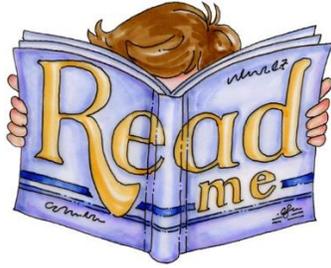


## Kindergarten Parent Tips



- ✚ Talk with your child about his/her day at school or family events. Maybe your child can explain a game at recess or a story the teacher read aloud. Encourage language.
- ✚ Sing songs or read rhyming books (Dr. Seuss) and identify the words that rhyme.
- ✚ What sound is at the beginning of the word? For example, using the book *Hop On Pop*, what sounds does “hop” begin with?
- ✚ Say silly tongue twisters. This kind of activity helps children become aware of sounds in words.
- ✚ Learning names of the letters (upper and lower case) and the sounds the letters make is important to beginning reading. Make a game of it. “I am thinking of a letter that makes the “mmmmm” sound. What letter am I thinking of?” Take turns.
- ✚ “Can you guess the word I am thinking of?” Say the individual sounds. “C-A-T. Yes, cat.” Make sure you put the sounds together. Students are being taught to tap words. One finger taps the table for each sound and then we put the sounds together.
- ✚ You can name three words and ask which one starts differently. Ball, bat, sugar. “Your name begins with s for Sara. Let’s think of another word that begins with s.” Examples could be sad, Sam, sat.
- ✚ If your child is having difficulty identifying a certain letter, use a finger to trace the letter while saying its sound. You can do this on a piece of paper, in the sand, or in a plate of sugar.
- ✚ When reading a story to your child, connect what happens in real life. Is that real or not real? Fiction books are not real. Can your child tell why? For example, animals don’t talk in real life. Nonfiction books tell us facts. The life cycle of a butterfly would be an example of nonfiction.
- ✚ “Do you like the ending of the story? Why or why not?” “Tell me what happened in the story we read.” You can show your child how to look back in the story if he/she doesn’t remember all the things that happened. Rereading is important. Your child may have a favorite book that he/she likes to listen to again and again. As you read, you can demonstrate a one-to-one match of the words you are reading to the words on the page.
- ✚ Talk about the pictures. Pictures can help us with the story and with the words on the page.
- ✚ We want to give your child lots of reading experiences.