**The ABC’s of Reading to and With Your Child**

**Ask questions while reading together. “What do you**

**think will happen next?”**

**Buy books as gifts for birthdays, Christmas, etc.**

**Chat about what’s happening in the book and how it relates to everyday life.**

**Drop everything and read. Set aside 20 minutes a day to read with and/or to your child.**

**Examine book illustrations in detail.**

**Find books that interest your child. Make suggestions but don’t turn reading into work.**

**Give hints when your child gets stuck on a word.**

**Have fun. Enjoy the story. Read with a slow, relaxed voice and be expressive.**

**Invite your child to the book store or library.**

**Join in your child’s reading successes. Celebrate every small step!**

**Kids love to receive mail. Send your child a magazine subscription or have a relative write your child a letter and send it to him or her. Encourage your child to write that person back.**

**Learn to read with, and not just to, your child daily. Read aloud, share ideas, and answer questions together.**

**Model reading. Share with your child, whether you’re reading for information or for entertainment.**

**Never force your child to read. If you’re both too tired or discouraged to read, take a break.**

**Offer your child a variety of reading materials such as books, magazines, comics.**

**Predict story elements, draw conclusions, and retell the story with your child.**

**Quiz your child at the end of a story. Informally, of course!**

**Reread books to familiarize your child with words and to build self-confidence.**

**Sing songs, recite poetry, and do finger plays to help develop language and listening skills.**

**Try to help your child understand that it’s okay to make mistakes.**

**Understand that reading is developmental and that it takes time and practice to become fluent.**

**Visit your local library on a regular basis.**

**Welcome wordless picture books into your collection. They generate conversation and allow the nonreader to create his or her own stories.**

**“X hibit” patience when your child is selecting books.**

**You are the most important person in helping your child develop a lifelong love of reading.**

**Zealous readers are the result of supportive and nurturing role models.**