



## **Read to your child**

- Reading to your child provides an active learning experience
- Children expand their language skills (vocabulary, basic concepts, etc.)
- Why is literacy so important? It's an important means of communication (i.e., letters, invitations, e-mail) and learning. It's also important for daily activities (i.e., grocery lists, reading the newspaper, prescription bottles, etc). Did you know that once a child is in grade 4, they are expected to read independently to learn more about the world.

## **How to encourage Literacy Skills:**

### **Discuss the book before you read it!**

- Talk about unfamiliar words.
- Encourage your child to guess what will happen in the story, what the problem might be, how it will be solved.

### **Read the book to your child:**

- Point and talk about the title, the author and the illustrator
- Encourage your child to point to the words with you as you read them.
- Encourage your child to read the words that they recognize
- Encourage your child to discuss the book, the pictures and ask questions
- Discuss new words that your child may not know and what they mean
- Balance what is read with the amount of questions you ask (i.e., Who, What, When, Where). Don't overwhelm your child with too many questions

### **Important literacy activities:**

Encourage your child to *tell the story back to you* as s/he is looking through the pages.

- Encourage your child to use key words such as "*first*", "*and*", "*then*" and "*last*".

Discuss how this story could apply to your family (i.e., sharing is important, change the ending of the story to what your family would have done, etc)

Encourage your child to listen to words and tell you if they *rhyme* (i.e., cat and hat, cat and chair)

Clap out the *syllables* of words