

FAMILY TIP SHEET



Family reading is important at every age. Children and teens can connect with their families when they read together. At the start of elementary school, reading together is especially important. Children become more aware of their world. They also learn how letters and words work. Families can help their children as they learn to read. Below are some suggestions that you can use as you read the books in your Louisville Growing Readers library.

- Read often. Snuggle together and make reading a positive experience. Your child can sit in your lap or next to you so they can see the pictures. Children will love sharing time with you.
- Your Growing Readers library has small books for a reason. They are sized for little hands! Encourage your child to hold the book and turn the pages as you read together.
- Many books in your library only have a few words on each page. Use them to help your child understand how books work. Point to the words when you read. Talk about the direction of the words: left to right and top to bottom. Point out the spaces between the words.
- Conversations about books build children's language skills. Make time to talk to your child about what you are reading. Model the use of new words. Talk in complete sentences. Encourage your child to talk, talk, talk.
- Let your child ask questions about the book. You can also ask questions to encourage your child to use more words. Use open-ended prompts that a child cannot answer with just a word or two. Try:
 - Tell me about...
 - What do you think about...?
 - Tell me more.
- Many children will find favorite books in their Growing Readers library. They will want to read them again and again. That's great! Reading the same book many times can build children's literacy skills.
- Try to set aside a time each day that you and your child can spend together reading. This lets them know that reading is important. Your child can look forward to this special routine every day.
- Don't worry about sounding silly or being repetitive when you read with your child. For them, it is a fun and wonderful time to be together!

