



Extend the Learning with Books



Learning to Read Begins Early—

even long before an infant can understand what you are saying. Reading with children can become a special way to spend time together and helps young children to:

- *develop language and listening skills;*
- *build a vocabulary;*
- *learn the relationship between sounds they hear and written words;*
- *understand the world around them;*
- *express themselves; and,*
- *become good readers.*



Smart TV—TV That Teaches—

can lead your children to good books! If you see a TV show about dogs, choose books about dogs to read with your children. If a show is about cooperation, read a story in which the characters work together toward a common goal. Here are a few more tips for bringing TV and books together:

- ✓ Talk about the story in a book and the TV show you watched. How are they alike? Talk about how they are different. Encourage your children to talk about how the book and TV show are like the things they do at home or in their school.
- ✓ Encourage your children to read to you. After you have read a book again and again, encourage pre-readers to “read” it to you. Encourage them to use the pictures to tell you the story from memory. They may skip some parts or get a few details wrong—but that’s okay!
- ✓ Help your children to write their own books based on stories you’ve read and programs you’ve watched. Ask children to think about what story they would like to write. Have materials available so they can write down their own story ideas. For children who need help, write down their words exactly as they say them. Encourage them to draw pictures for their story. Ask them to read their stories to you and to others again and again.
- ✓ Share all kinds of stories: stories about your day, your childhood, fantasies, and classic tales. Some shows bring a wide range of stories into your home. Check out books from your local library. Finding books at garage sales can be an inexpensive way to encourage your child’s love for reading.



Make Reading Time Special

Turn off the TV, find a comfortable space to be together, and enjoy sharing the pleasure of a special story. Set aside a special time each day—maybe after breakfast or before a nap—to share a book or two together!