

Commonly Asked Questions Regarding Reading at Home Strategies

Q: *When should you read together?*

- Anytime that you can spare – be flexible
- A regularly scheduled time such as just before bedtime, has been found to be successful. Reading becomes a habit when it is part of a daily routine.

Q: *When should you not read together?*

- When you are thinking about some nagging job or problem, or when the child's (or your own) favourite TV program is on.
- When you find yourself becoming impatient, and if you find yourself scolding, stop the session.

Q: *What should you read?*

- Your child will be bringing books from the school library that you can read together.
- Also, your child can join the local library and borrow books from there. Let your child choose the books he/she is interested in and wants to read.
- You may also purchase books as gifts for birthdays and special days.
- You may also read any publications such as: school readers "How to" manuals, letters, recipes, TV guides, newspapers, magazines, catalogues, directions for assembling toys or models, plays, poetry books, joke books, reference books, encyclopedias, paperback versions, or TV serials and biographies.

Q: *How do you choose a book suitable for your child to read aloud?*

- Use the "Five Finger" method to help you choose a suitable book for your child to experience success in, when reading aloud.
- Five Finger method: Choose any page. Have your child begin to read it aloud. For each word your child doesn't know, hold up a finger. By the end of the page, you should have five or less fingers up. If you have more, the book is usually too difficult for your child to read aloud.

Q: *Where should you read together?*

- Choose a place that is comfortable and pleasant for you and your child.
- Try to reduce distractions (turn off TV).

Q: *What do you do if you don't have enough time to read with your child?*

- If you have several children, have the younger children read to the older children, or set aside a time each day when the entire family reads and shares literature. During this time, all family members can read silently and then take turns reading an amusing or interesting part aloud.
- Enlist the services of grandparents, friends, neighbours, etc.
- Use taped books from school, public library, or commercial sources.