

# For Parents

## How can I help my child with reading?

- Recognise and be proud of your child's successes in reading.
  - Ensure your child is exposed to a wide range of reading materials, i.e. newspapers, letters, recipes, TV guides, magazines, puzzle books.
  - Provide a quiet, well-lit study area.
  - Make sure your child uses the library regularly and encourage him/her to take younger children along.
  - Encourage your child to read for different purposes, i.e.
    - reading biographies and novels
    - reading and explaining instructions for using new appliances
    - reading interesting articles from the community newspaper
    - reading to younger brother and sister
    - reading to find out more information about a topic.
  - Take an interest in books written by favourite authors. Talk about them. Give them for presents.
  - Encourage your child to talk about books he or she has enjoyed or disliked. Foster thoughtful criticism and comment.
  - Support the learning process by guiding and advising. This doesn't mean doing the work for your child. Talking things through is very important.
  - Talk to your child's teacher about homework expectations. Ask if there is anything further you can do to help.
  - Let your child see that you sometimes need to discuss and clarify issues to help your understanding.
- Support your child's school research tasks by:
    - taking your child to the local library to find appropriate books
    - encouraging your child to jot down key issues about a topic
    - helping your child to classify this information
    - encouraging your child to explore the topic further by brainstorming topic-related questions using a 'Question Word' framework—'Who', 'How', 'When', 'If', 'Where', 'What', 'Why'.
    - encouraging your child to use the following procedures when taking notes, e.g.
      - Short Notes**  
key words and phrases with the reference book open
      - Long Notes**  
own sentences with the reference book closed.
  - continue to discuss ideas, statements and underlying beliefs which are evident in newspapers, books and television programs.



© Education Department of Western Australia. Published by Addison Wesley Longman Australia 1994. This page may be photocopied for classroom use only.