

# Parent Tips

## Encouraging Your Child to Read and Write

- ✓ Read to your child.
- ✓ Read the comics together.
- ✓ Let your child read the television or movie schedule aloud to you.
- ✓ Encourage your child to look up telephone numbers in the phone book.
- ✓ Give the gift of a book or magazine subscription on a topic of special interest to your reluctant reader.
- ✓ Ask your child to read a menu at a restaurant to you.
- ✓ Ask your child to read signs wherever you go.
- ✓ Have your child read aloud the writing on cereal boxes, juice containers and so on, as you prepare breakfast.
- ✓ Record a favorite story or magazine article so that your child can listen to the words while reading.
- ✓ Leave funny little notes (jokes, friendly reminders, thank-you) around the house—on a blackboard, in a lunch box, on the bathroom mirror, on the refrigerator door.
- ✓ Have your child trace pictures from the comics and write his or her own captions.
- ✓ Have your child write the weekly grocery list as you look through the cabinets and dictate.
- ✓ Provide letter stamps or letter stencils for creating fun projects such as birthday invitations, valentine cards, or posters for your child's bedroom door or school locker.
- ✓ Use any excuse to have your child create a poster or sign for your family (Welcome Home! The Party's Here! Great Job, Bobby! Congratulations, Mom!).
- ✓ Encourage your child to write a fan letter to a favorite sports, television or music personality.
- ✓ Encourage your child to send away for or obtain from your library, Free Stuff For Kids (Meadowbrook Press, Deephaven, MN 55391)
- ✓ Have your child tell you a story while you write it down. Then reverse things; you dictate a short story as your child writes. Ignore spelling. Your goal here is to encourage the desire to write, not to teach spelling. "Creative" spelling is just fine if your child can read it back to you.
- ✓ Have your child plan a menu for a special occasion. Let him or her look through recipe books for a new recipe and copy it on a recipe card. Help him or her prepare the recipe and hand out a photocopy of the recipe card to all the dinner guests.
- ✓ Create a Family Foto Center on a bulleting board. Put up favorite photos, and have your child write funny comments under each one. Change the photos and comments periodically and encourage your child to read them to visitors.
- ✓ Write and illustrate books together. Have your child draw several pictures about one topic (such as a recent trip, winter activities, a day at school). Have hm or her write or dictate to you a sentence about each picture. Bind the pages together using yarn or staples covered with vinyl type.
- ✓ Create a family newslerrer to send to relatives. Encourage your kids to interview a relative, write an article about about some bit of family news, describe a family tradition, include a favorite family recipe or write a special poem for each other. Your older child may want to type or use the com;puter to publish the newsletter. Oltherise, you can simply photocopy the children's writing.