

# Let's Read!

Did you know that reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do with your child to support language development and early literacy skills?

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Reading aloud builds motivation, curiosity and memory; helps calm children experiencing stress or anxiety; introduces children to new ideas, words, and vocabulary; and creates positive feelings about books and reading.

#### WHEN TO READ

Research shows that reading aloud to your child at least once a day can help build crucial language and literacy skills. Bedtime is the perfect time for reading aloud because it can be calming for the child. It also helps strengthen the bond between you and your child.

## **WHAT TO READ**

Read books about things your child likes. Does your child like dinosaurs? What about horses or princesses? When you involve your child in the process of selecting the books you will read together, your child will be more likely to enjoy listening to the story.

### **READING TIPS**

Incorporate these simple tips below to help your child get more out of the reading experience:

- Point to the words as you read them.
- Encourage your child to join in when reading familiar stories.
- · Read your child's favorite stories often.
- Talk about the pictures.