



# Let's Read!

When parents help their children learn to read, they open the door to a big, exciting world. As a parent, you can begin an endless learning chain like this: You read to your children, they develop a love of stories and poems, they want to read on their own, they practice reading, and finally, they read for their own information or pleasure. When children become readers, their world is forever wider and richer.

Here are some things you can do:



- Read aloud to your child: books, newspaper and magazine articles, the back of the cereal box, labels on cans, or directions.
- Read poems aloud together to learn about rhythm and repeated sounds in language.
- Point to the words on the page when you read. Move your finger from left to right.
- Listen to your child read homework or favorite stories to you every day.
- Go to the library together and check out books. Be sure to ask the librarian for good books or to help you find what you need.
- Have books, magazines, and papers around the house, and let your child see that you like to read, too.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Help experienced readers talk and write about what they read.

## Reading Activities

### Over and Over Again

*for young children*

- Pick a story or poem that repeats phrases. "Assign" your child a phrase to repeat each time you read a new part of the story.
- Read a short portion of the story or poem, then stop and let your child repeat the phrase.
- Encourage your child to act out the story.

For example, with the story of the "Three Little Pigs:"

Wolf (parent): Little pig, little pig,  
Let me come in.

Little Pig (child): Not by the hair on my  
chinny-chin-chin!

Wolf (parent): Then I'll huff and I'll  
puff, and I'll blow  
your house in!

## Make Sense of Sounds

*for beginning readers*

- Look for poems or tongue twisters that repeat sounds and letters.
- Point out these sounds and letters, and explain that they often make the same sound whenever you see them with other letters on the page. For example:

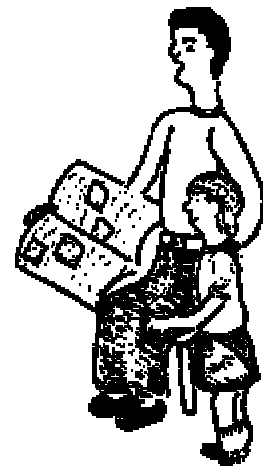
There once was a **fat cat** named **Matt**.  
And a **black cat** who had a **big bat**.  
The **rat** put a **tack**  
When the **cat** turned his **back**  
On the **mat** where the **black cat** sat.  
A **big blue barrel** of **big blue blueberries**.  
Does this shop sell socks with spots?



## Read Together

*for more advanced readers*

- Ask your child to read to you.
- Take turns. You read a paragraph and your child can read the next one, or take turns reading full pages one after the other. Keep in mind that your child may be concentrating on how to read, and your reading helps to keep the story alive.
- If your child has trouble reading words, you can help in several ways:
  - have your child skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and ask what word would make sense in the story;
  - have your child use what is known about letters and the sounds they make to "sound out" the word; or
  - supply the word and keep reading: enjoyment is the main goal.



**Take 15 for the Family...Building a Lifetime of Learning** is a new statewide initiative launched by the Maryland State Department of Education. It encourages Maryland families to dedicate 15 minutes each day to doing everyday activities, like eating dinner together, and turning those moments into learning opportunities. The goals of the program are to build awareness among parents that involvement in their children's education is critical and to provide resources to make this involvement easy and fun.

For more information, dial 1-888-246-0016 or log on to [marylandpublicschools.org](http://marylandpublicschools.org).

*Content for this activity sheet was excerpted from the U.S. Department of Education's "Learning Partners, A Guide to Educational Activities for Families."*