

# Thank you for giving new books to children to keep for their own!

## Some Ideas to Make the Most of a Book Gifting Opportunity

The difference between a **Book Give-Away** and *Gifting a Book* is small but SIGNIFICANT!

Your enthusiasm and presentation of a book gift can be the key that gives a child or family the motivation to open and then enjoy the book again and again!

### Some small ways to make a BIG difference:

- Build anticipation by talking about the book days before you give it out. You could read it out loud, appreciating the story and each illustration, before you let on that you will be giving the book as a gift.
- Make the handing out of the book special by announcing that “It is TIME!”, adding a name plate sticker or have the school principal or someone equally “big” in the child’s or family’s life give the book out.
- Create a special time to give the book out, such as during a “Book Group,” snack time, a home visit, or in conjunction with a group outing.
- Create pride in ownership by saying out loud, “This book is a gift to you. It is yours to keep and enjoy.”
- Show that **you** enjoy and value the book by reading the book aloud together after the child has his or her own copy.

### Keep the engagement going!

- Read the book aloud together more times, after the child has the book at home.
- Do open-ended activities related to the book such as:
  - discuss the book together
  - relate real life to details or characters in the book
  - draw an image from the story or in the style of the illustrator
  - write a different ending to the book or in the style of the author
  - write to the author about the book
  - play act part or all of the book with puppets, costumes, or props
  - create art projects that reflect the ideas in the book
- More ideas:
  - give materials to the family about the importance and joy of reading aloud to children
  - give information about the author of the book along with a booklist of additional reading
  - give suggestions to the family about how to have fun with a story and how to play with words

