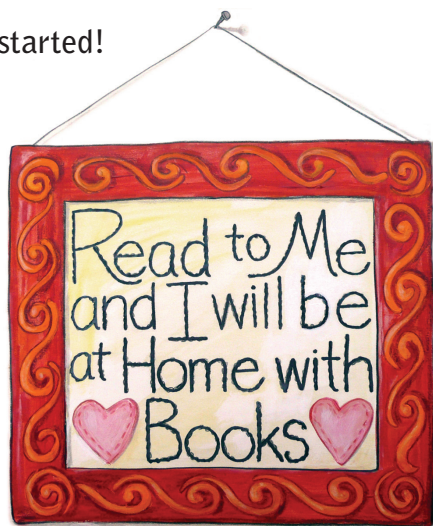


## 4. Start Family Reading and Book Traditions

*A tradition is an activity that a family has enjoyed together in the past and is likely to continue in the future because they value it. When sharing books becomes a special part of your family's traditions, books and reading will become an important part of your child's future.*

- | A                        | B  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> I show my child that books are special by including books as gifts for birthdays, holidays, and special occasions—for adults as well as children. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> I welcome new babies with a book. I write a "Welcome Baby" message in the book to make the book extra special.                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> We make our own books with pictures that my child draws or cuts from magazines and words that we add together.                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> We have special <i>At Home with Books</i> nights when screens are turned off and everyone reads and tells stories together!                       |

Great! Let's get started!



## Dear Family,

Did you know that one of the **most important** activities that your family can do to help your child love books and to become a good reader is to talk and read together every day? It's that simple, and you can do it!



Including books and reading in your family life every day makes a **BIG** difference in your child's life. It's fun and the benefits last a lifetime!

## *At Home with Books* Family Self-Assessment

Inside is a special list of simple ways you can help your child to grow up loving books and later become a reader.

Put a check ✓ next to things that you already do.

Put a star ★ next to the ideas you want like to try.

We can work on this together throughout the year. Each check and star you make on this list brings your child closer to enjoying a lifetime of loving books and reading success! Fill out the "A" column first, and then 4-6 months later fill out the "B" column and see if anything has changed.

Put a check ✓ next to things that you already do.  
Put a star ★ next to the ideas you want like to try.

## 1. Make Reading and Talking Part of Everyday Family Life

*When you read to your child every day, it becomes a routine that your child will remember as special and comforting and you will create happy memories that last a lifetime.*



- | A                        | B                        |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I find time every day to share books and read with my child.                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I tell stories—from books or made up stories.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I talk about books I read to my child.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I ask “why,” “how,” and “what do you think” questions.                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I play with words and language. (Make up silly rhymes. Change the ending to a story!) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I ask my child to retell stories from books or from our day together.                 |

## 2. Fill Your House with Books and Reading Fun

*Just as children’s growing bodies need food, their growing minds need words and books. The books that children own become their first and their very own, treasured library.*



- | A                        | B                        |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I have books at home where my child can reach them.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I find books to keep—at yard sales, trading with friends, at book stores. |

- | A                        | B                        |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I let my children see me read—books, newspapers, cookbooks or magazines.                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I visit the library for books to borrow.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I pass along outgrown books to friends or family and ask friends and family to do the same for my child. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I read aloud often with my child.  |

## 3. Help Children Fall in Love with Books

*When children love to do something, they do it over and over again. Loving books is a habit that is never too early to start and one that will bring a lifetime of joy.*



- | A                        | B                        |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I make special cozy places to snuggle and read together, and for my child to look at books alone.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I read my child’s favorite books over and over if asked.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I use books to explore the world and learn new things with my child.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I let my child choose books that interest her/him.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I pack books to take along in the car, on the bus or to appointments in case there is a wait.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I find good times to read throughout the day in addition to bedtime. (At breakfast? Before supper? After a nap?) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I say “yes” whenever possible, when my child brings me a book and asks me to read aloud.                         |