

# LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS

Helping your child learn to read doesn't require a lot of time or money. Words are everywhere, and you can help your child just by reading them together.

## Here are some ways to help your child learn to read:

- Keep short books in your purse or backpack and in the car, so you'll always have some handy when you have a few spare minutes.
- Talk to your child! Spoken language is part of literacy. As you and your child chat, your child builds vocabulary and confidence.
- Don't just read your child books; tell your child stories, too.
- After reading a story, have your child tell the story back to you. Make up new endings together.
- Show your child how you read packaging at the grocery store. Cereal boxes are packed with words.
- Point out letters and words everywhere you go. Street signs, license plates and menus are great examples.
- Play store, housekeeping, doctor or restaurant with your child at home. (For example, if you play restaurant, let your child write down your order.) You don't have to play for a long time.
- Come up with silly rhymes with your child. For example: I saw a cat/I saw a rat/I was so surprised/I slipped on a mat.
- Don't think bedtime is the only time to read your child a story. Children love it when their parents read to them, no matter what time of day it is.