

LEARNING
READINESS



Read at Home

Reading at home can take many forms for Kindergartners: Picture books, children's magazines, and cereal boxes can be read to a child by an older child or adult. . . or a child may be reading simple words at this age. The more practice a child has in reading or in being read to, the better her reading skills will become. Kindergartners' reading at home (or being read to) can replace Screen Time (which has been found to reduce children's reading skills). The emphasis in reading at this age is in reading "readiness" and helping a child be interested in reading, a habit he will develop according to his own unique ability and interest throughout his formal education and beyond.

Ways to practice this habit together:

- **Set aside time every day for your child to be read to and practice sounding out words, if he is able to do so.**
- **Make reading together a part of your child's routine before bedtime,** for example, so he associates it with a time for your attention and comfort. If you have more than one child, try to take time to read to each child alone sometimes, to get to know each child's special interests in sounds and pictures!
- **Praise your child's reading skills by saying how well she is able to sound out words or how well she "reads " a particular word.** It's the joy of reading that will encourage your child to practice doing so as she grows. NOTE: By having one-on-one reading time with your Kindergartner (and each of your children), you can discover if your child is having difficulty reading (does she need glasses?), hearing your voice read the words (does her hearing need testing?), or sounding out words (is there a comprehension problem?). Check with your child's teacher if you are concerned.)

