CREATING A HOME READING ENVIRONMENT

- Let your child see you read frequently. Have books, magazines, newspapers, etc. around the house. Your child should know that you believe reading is important.

- Always have books around the house. Place them on low shelves where your children can reach them. Children are curious and will pick up books if they are readily available.

- Try to read aloud to your child each day. Most children enjoy a bedtime story.

- Encourage your children to read aloud to you and to their older and younger siblings. This emphasizes the importance of reading as a sharing activity and could result in discussions about books and the characters and messages they contain.

- Allow your child to select his/her own reading materials.

- Occasionally extend the “lights-out” period for your children, with the provision that the time is used for reading.

- See that your child has a library card and try to take him/her to the library on a regular basis.

- Buy books for your children. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.

- Pass along family traditions by reading the same books to your children that your parents read to you. Let them know that the books were read to you as a child.

- Provide a special place where your child keeps his/her own reading materials.

- Have books available especially for sharing, such as an illustrated Mother Goose, a children’s song book, a book of children’s poetry, an illustrated folktale collection, a children’s atlas, or a children’s magazine.

- Set aside a regular time for reading in your family that is independent of school work. Consider 20 minutes before “lights-out”, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 10 minutes of reading a day can improve your child’s reading skills.

- Remember to pack favorite books for family trips.

- Let your children see you reading for pleasure.