Print Motivation

A child with good print motivation enjoys being read to, plays with books, pretends to read, and likes trips to the Library. As a parent, you can ensure that reading aloud is a FUN and enjoyable time you share together.

Some ideas for developing print motivation:

1. Make shared book reading a special time for closeness between you and your child. Share the enjoyment of reading, using books or big books.

2. Share books when you and the child are in a good mood. Positive interactions around books will lead to more regular and frequent book sharing experiences. Conversely, negative interactions make the young child less interested in books and reading.

3. Encourage your child when s/he pretends to read. Treat your child as a reader, and let him or her know that they will become good readers.

4. Let your child see that you enjoy reading. Try to take time out of your day to read, too. Be a model for your child!

5. Find the words to rhymes and songs so you and your child can follow along. Point to the text from time to time.

6. Know that it is OK for babies to play with board books. Sturdy books can be put in the toy box, or in baskets throughout the house. If books are stored on a shelf, display them with the cover out when you can. Keep the pop-up books up high for reading with you. Keep your child’s interactions with books positive.

7. Make visits to the library on a regular basis and make them fun outings. Going to the library supports a child’s interest in and enjoyment of books. Let your child make choices about what books you take home.

8. Buy books for gifts for birthdays and other holidays. For some children, you might want to include a toy also, such as a teddy bear with the book The Three Bears or a butterfly puppet with The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Visit bookstores, find used book sales, and support school book sales when you can.