



Reading together is one of the best activities that you can do with a child of any age.

### Reading Hints

- 📖 **Read the book ahead of time.** If you are familiar with the book you will know what core words/signs and gestures to emphasize, when to pause and let the child participate.
- 📖 **Choose a quiet time and place** with limited interruptions if possible.
- 📖 **Let the child choose** the book from two or three appropriate books.
- 📖 **Don't just read the book.** Use different voices, fun words, make sounds, facial expressions, gestures and actions to make the story come alive
- 📖 **Repeat and exaggerate** the key words/signs and gestures. If available, point to core word picture communication symbols.
- 📖 **You don't have to read the words.** Change the words and use language that children understand (e.g., use family member's names). Talk about the pictures and actions in the book.
- 📖 **Follow the child's lead.** Don't rush. Give the child time to look, talk about the pictures, point to the pictures and/or picture symbols or ask questions. Wonder aloud what may happen next (e.g., Now WHAT?)
- 📖 **Pause and let the child join in** with repeated words, actions or phrases (e.g. "GO wash" or "He wants MORE to eat!") or fill in the blank for key words (e.g. " The lady yelled at the gingerbread boy\_\_\_\_\_ -STOP").
- 📖 **Connect** the child's real life experiences to the story. E.g., Use words from the story when you are having snacks together-MORE, LIKE, HELP..
- 📖 **Watch the child's reactions.** A lot of squirming and a short attention span may mean you need to look at the choice of book (Is it too easy or too hard? .... too long or too short? ). Or, are there too many distractions in the room?
- 📖 **A favorite book can be read many times** if the child is still enjoying the story. We all have our favourite things we like to do often.

