TIPS FOR RAISING A YOUNG READER

There are many ways you can help your young reader develop skills that will set them up for success in kindergarten and beyond. Here are a few tips to develop key early literacy skills in the comfort of your own home.

- **Read aloud** books that have rhyming words and repeated phrases. Reread these often and invite your child to join in on the words they know.

- **Talk about the parts of a book.** Point out the cover, title, author, illustrator, and the difference between text and illustrations. Point out that text moves from left to right.

- **Sing together!** Singing nursery rhymes and songs help develop your child's knowledge of rhyming words, vocabulary and knowledge of letter sounds.

- **Build your child's knowledge of the alphabet.** Sing the ABC's. Play 'I Spy' and look for specific letters. Have your child identify the letters in their name.

- **Use household objects to build knowledge of letter sounds.** For example, hold up the pen, and ask, “What sound do you hear at the beginning of pen? What letter makes that sound?”

- **Have your child spot words they know anywhere they can.** Read a cereal box, instructions for a game, or the news on TV. Opportunities to practice reading are everywhere!

- **Cut out letters from a newspaper.** Use these letters to build words, change a letter to make a new word, or take apart a word and practice the letter sounds.

- **Read aloud to your child every day.** Set aside time to enjoy a story together and talk about what you've read.

- **Read the pictures!** Invite your child to tell a story based on the illustrations in the books you read.