

# Parenting Future Readers

No. 12 (Month 35-36)

## *Did you know?*

Your 3-year-old child is already using about 1000 words and understands even more.



## *Did you know?*

Growing up in an environment rich in printed materials, such as books, magazines and newspapers, helps your child develop skills that will make learning to read easier.

## *What Parents Can Do*

Keep your child's books and old magazines on low shelves so she can look at them whenever she wants. Provide toys that have letters, like alphabet blocks or puzzles. Label things with your child's name - bedroom, coat hook, drawings, etc.

## *Did you know?*

Writing for your child helps her learn that what she says can be written down and read by others. This is an important literacy lesson!

## *What Parents Can Do*

Provide writing materials for your child, such as paper, crayons, and washable markers. When your child draws a picture, ask him to tell about his drawing and write his words next to the picture.

## *Did you know?*

Reading to your child shows him the way we read printed materials, and helps him make the connection between printed words and spoken words.

## *What Parents Can Do*

Point to words (sometimes) as you read to your child, moving from left to right and top to bottom.

## *Did you know?*

Seeing parents read and write makes children want to learn these skills.

## *What Parents Can Do*

Take time (for yourself) to read. Let your child "help" you write grocery lists or letters to relatives or friends.

# Fun Activities Using Print

## Make Greeting Cards

- ❖ Help your child fold a piece of paper in half and then in half again, so it resembles a greeting card.
- ❖ Discuss with your child what kind of card she wants to make (e.g. birthday, holiday, get well).
- ❖ Let your child draw pictures on the card.
- ❖ Have your child tell you what to write in his card. Write down his exact words and read them back to him.
- ❖ Put the card in an envelope and write the name and address of the recipient, telling your child the words as you write them. Have your child put on the stamp. Mail the card!
- ❖ As an alternative activity, your child might want to make a bunch of cards and then open up a "card store."
- ❖ Set up a small table where your child can display the cards. Pennies or home made tickets can be used to purchase the cards. Provide a small box with lid for the cash register.
- ❖ Mom, Dad, older siblings, relatives or friends can be customers and purchase cards.



## Make a Simple Treat

- ❖ Write a simple recipe (one that has only a few ingredients) on a piece of paper. Here is one suggestion:
- ❖ **Ants on a log**
  1. celery
  2. peanut butter
  3. raisins
- ❖ Read the ingredients to your child pointing to each word, and have her check each ingredient off the list as you buy it.
- ❖ Let him help wash the celery. You will need to cut it into sticks about 3 inches long.
- ❖ Show your child how to put peanut butter down the center of the celery. Let her help.
- ❖ Have your child put some raisins on top of the peanut butter.
- ❖ Enjoy your treat!