

## LEARNING ON THE GO: Literacy Tips for Young Children

Reading is the key to success in school. Good readers aren't born; they develop a love for books at a young age. Here are a few ideas to help parents stimulate their child's interest in books early in life:

- **Create pleasurable memories associated with reading.** Set aside at least ten minutes a day to snuggle and read a story together.
- **Maximize exposure to the printed word.** Keep a variety of reading materials in your home: picture books, magazines, nature guides, catalogs, and newspapers.
- **Encourage a sense of ownership of books at a young age.** Give little ones durable books they can look through, turn the pages, carry around and even chew on!
- **Designate a place for your child's books,** such as a shelf, basket, or box, with a chair or pillow nearby for comfortable pretend reading of favorites.
- **Enjoy some reading time yourself.** Children mimic their parents' behavior. Seeing you read gives them the message that it's a fun thing to do.
- **Take a weekly book outing** to familiarize your child with the library and bookstores. Attend story times, look at new books, and get your child a library card.

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing *before* they can actually read and write. These ideas create **print motivation**, a skill children can start learning from birth.