Reading together is the most important way to prepare your child for reading independently. Babies learn how books work as they turn pages. They learn that written words have meaning. Make reading time fun and interactive. Repeat a favorite book. If babies enjoy books, then they are more likely to want to learn to read later.

**BABY**

- Read a board book that has texture on each page. Talk about how it feels.
- Board Books are great to take outside on a warm spring day! Find a book with an “outdoor element” such as a tree, bird, grass, leaf, etc. Then find that element outside and compare.

**TODDLER**

- Read a book about something “big” or “little”. Then ask your child to make themselves very, very big or very, very little.
- Read a book about food. Then taste some of the same foods.

**PRESCHOOLERS**

- Read a book about real bugs. Then look outside to see if you can find some.
- Read a picture-driven cookbook together, and try to make the recipe. You’ll find lots of nice cookbooks in nonfiction J641.5.

**DO**

Point to the animals and identify them with your child. Run your finger beneath the name of each animal as you read it.

- duck
- cow
- pig
- dog
- cat
- bird

**SIGN!**

Our sign today is **DUCK**

With the back of your hand touching your chin, stick out your thumb on the bottom and the pointer and middle fingers as a unit, on top. Curve your other two fingers. Open and shut your “duck beak” and say: DUCK! Don’t forget to quack!