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 book with a familiar nursery rhyme in it. Clap or bounce along.
- Find a book with a “Mama” in it (human or animal). Point to “Mama” in the picture, then to self. Say “Mama”. Do the same with “Baby” or “Papa”.

**TODDLER**

- Read a book with Squares in it. Point them out. Can you use 4 sticks or spoons or crayons to make a square?
- Fall colors are orange, red and brown. Check out a book with these colors, and see if you can find them all.

**PRESCHOOLERS**

- Read a book about something that can fly HIGH or crawl LOW. Then pretend to be that thing.
- Read a story that rhymes together. Point out the rhyming words. Read the first line and most of the second. Let your child predict the rhyming word from the picture.

**DO**

Point to the colors below and identify colors with your child. Run your finger below the name of the color at the same time. Don’t be afraid of using “gold” for “yellow”, “cocoa” for “brown” or “rust” instead of “orange”.

**SAY!**

SPANISH: *la linterna de Calabaza*  
(*la lynn-tear-na day cala-baa-za*)

SIGN: Place your open hands, palms forward, on either side of your smiling face. (Fingers are together, pointer on each cheek...thumbs touch your chin.) Tip your face from left to right.

Say: Jack-o-lantern

**Holiday Sign of the Day**

**JACK-O-LANTERN**