



TEACHING YOUR CHILD TO READ



"Why?" This is the question we parents are always trying to answer. It's good that children ask questions— that's the best way to learn. All children have two wonderful resources for learning, and that's imagination and curiosity. As a parent, you can awaken your children to the joy of learning by encouraging their imagination and curiosity. This is the first of a four part workshop along with some parent/child activities intended to help you make the most of your child's natural curiosity.

Teaching and learning are not mysteries that can only happen in school. They also happen when parents and children do simple things together. For instance, you and your child can: sort the socks on laundry day—sorting is a major function in math and science; cook a meal together—cooking involves not only math and science but good health as well; tell and read each other stories—storytelling is the basis for reading and writing (and a story about the past is also history), or play a game of hopscotch together— playing physical games will help your child learn to count and start on a road to lifelong fitness. By doing things together, you will show that learning is fun and important. Besides, you will be encouraging your child to study, learn, and stay in school.

Dream Children Books targets children up to age10. Similarly, the workshops and activities focus primarily on what you can do to help your children from infancy up to preschool. The reason is simple: During these years you can lay the foundation for your child to become a lifelong reader. In the workshops and activities, expect to find some basic information and suggestions that will guide you to read with your child and make this all-important time together enjoyable. While the focus is on parents of children up to age10, there will be supplemental workshops for parents of older children on how to help them continue to grow as readers.

As you make reading with your child a routine part of your lives, these workshops will help you to find new ideas. You don't need to be an especially skillful reader yourself to help your child. In fact, some public libraries offer adult literacy programs that involve reading to children as a way to improve literacy skills for the whole family. Nor do you have to devote great amounts of time to reading with your child. It's the quality of time that counts.



