

Encourage your child to ‘pretend read’



Even if your child isn't able to read on his own yet, encourage him to look through books and pretend to read them. When your child pretends to read to himself, he:

- **Creates a story.** When your child

looks at the pictures of a book in order, he can imagine a story that goes along with the pictures. Ask him to look at the pictures and tell you what he thinks is happening in the beginning, the middle and the end of the book. Even though he may not be reading the words on the page, your child will get a sense of the narrative structure of a story.

- **Learns how books work.** With your help, your child will figure out that the text on the page goes from left to right. You can also show him how the text



continues from one page to the next. He will learn which direction the book faces and which direction to turn the pages.

- **Recognizes letters and patterns.** Encourage your child to look for the first letter of his name while he looks at a book. Once he is quick to find his initial letter, challenge him to find the other letters of his name. His familiarity with letters will help him put words together once he's reading.