Shared Reading

Lots of folks read TO a child. That's an important thing to do. But just like riding a bike, a child who is learning to read needs lots of opportunities to practice reading. And they need someone to read WITH them. This is called "shared reading." In shared reading, the child and the Reading Partner are both participating in the activity.
As a Reading Partner, you'll help a child enjoy the present while preparing for the future. What an important challenge!

Strategies for Shared Reading

Picture Reading – The Reading Partner asks questions about the pictures or the child tells a story based solely on the pictures

Sighting – before reading a page or passage, the Reading Partner asks the child to find the smallest or largest word, or a specific letter or simple words or punctuation marks.

Discovery – The Reading Partner guides the child through a familiar book asking the child to fill in repeated phrases.

Echo Reading – The Reading Partner reads a passage and the child reads it back.

Unison Reading – The Reading Partner and child read the same passage together.

Whisper Reading – The Reading Partner reads quietly into the child's ear while the child reads aloud.

Stop and Go Reading – The Reading Partner and child take turns. The child has a signal to indicate wanting to read or wanting to stop so the Reading Partner can take a turn.

Solo Reading – The child reads to the Reading Partner. (It's always fun for the Reading Partner to take a turn.)

Reading Partner Tips

It you do not know the child introduce yourself and get to know each other.
Sit next to the child so you both can see the book.
Choose a strategy that you think supports the child's reading ability.
For beginning readers, point to each word.
When a child struggles with a word, ask:

> Can you guess what that word might be?
> Does it look right?
> Does it make sense?
> Does the picture give you any clues?
> Can you think about what might fit?
> (The child should "sound out" as a last resort.)

Talk about the book. Ask questions that help the child understand:

What do you think this book is about?
What might happen next?
Why did … happen?
What would you have done?
How did … make you feel?
What did you like about this book?

Use a variety of books, but remember that young children love repetition.
Be flexible, if a book or a strategy doesn't work, try something else.
Have fun! Enjoy your Reading Partner experience!

Good Reading Partners Have …

Listening ears
Warm smile
Books to share
Strategies to follow
Helping hands
Patience and an open mind
Caring heart