

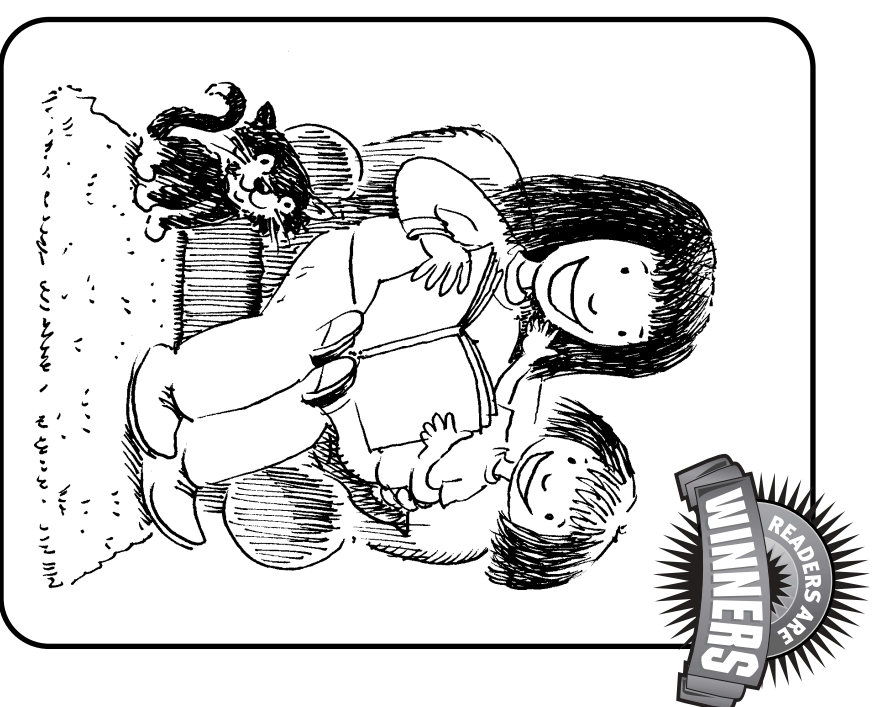
# CHILDREN RESPOND

- Let your children see you reading—for enjoyment, for news, and for information in cookbooks, telephone directories etc. This way your children will realise that reading is important to you for many reasons.
- Make sure your children have a growing collection of books to match their new skills. This helps to generate a sense of pride and accomplishment as reading proficiency develops.
- Consider subscriptions to children's magazines. Children enjoy receiving their own mail.
- Take out a library card at your local library and make a habit of borrowing books regularly.
- Write easy-to-read notes and leave them in lunchboxes, on pillows, mirrors, bulletin boards etc. This promotes a sense of fun and eagerness about reading, especially if a note says: 'I have a surprise for you!'



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# READING IN THE HOME



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How can parents help to ensure their children's success in reading?



Here are some ABCs for encouraging young readers

## A READING ENVIRONMENT

The most important subject your children are learning in school right now is reading. They are building skills that will affect reading performance and reading pleasure for a lifetime. You can help by providing a comfortable and reassuring reading environment. No matter what degree of accomplishment your children have achieved, the experts agree on one thing: reading is what makes better readers. Make reading a pleasurable and useful part of their lives—and watch your children respond.

- Take time to talk about the books you read with your children. This helps to establish the concept that reading generates ideas, opinions and questions.
- Write your grocery list clearly and ask your children to help you read it in the store. This helps to build a sight vocabulary based on familiar things.
- Browse in bookstores together or attend book fairs. These are great places on rainy days.
- When your children start to spend their own money on books and magazines, you'll know you've passed on a real gift—the joy of reading!

## B BE SURE TO READ ALOUD

Although your young child is becoming a reader, don't stop enjoying books together.

- Try to set aside a short period each day for reading to your children. Choose a quiet time that your children know is especially for them—for instance, before they go to sleep.
- Allow your children to choose favourite stories but introduce new ones too. Often, children are very interested in the books that you liked as a child.
- Sit close to your children when you read to them, holding the book so they can see it.
- Take time to look at the picture with your children and help them to identify familiar letters and characters, which will add to their understanding of the story.
- Encourage your children to be creative. You will be surprised at the ideas they have which may not have occurred to you.