There's magic in children's books. They bring fun and wonder. They build dreams. They help children learn about the world and themselves. Reading together draws you closer.

Here are some ways to read with your children:

**Before reading the book...** Pick stories with action and interest.

Read the book first yourself. Knowing the story will help you know what comes next.

Choose a regular story time. Bedtime, nap or quiet times are great.

Find a cozy, quiet place to read the story. Call it your reading spot.

**While reading the book...**

Make sure children can see the pictures. Hold the book up or lay it in your lap.
Watch children as you read the book. Are they happy, sad, interested? See how they follow the story.

Try using fun voices. Make the word scared sound scared, or the word tired sound tired.

Have them guess what happens next.

Involve them in saying repeated words or phrases.

Ask questions like these as you look at the book:

- What do you think will happen next?
- How do you think the boy feels?
- Is it winter? How do you know?
- Are there any square shapes in the picture?
- How many red things do you see?

**After reading the book...**

Encourage children to talk about the stories.

Ask questions like these:

- What did you like best about winter?
- Have you felt the same way?
- What would you do if you were in the story?

Keep time short enough to leave them wanting more later.

Look for ways during the day to add to messages in the story.

Have fun reading the story. Give your children the best present of all your time.