

TIPS FOR MAKING READING FUN

When reading to whole groups pick books that are generally short, have rhymes, repeated verses and use many action words. Try to emphasize them even acting out the action if you can to stir up interest in the story.

Reading time generally = 15-20 minutes.

Suggested books to use: 3-5 (depending on the size of the group)

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- **Introduce yourself** - state your name, then say you are here to read because it is very important how to read.
- **Using book covers** – show cover hiding the title. Ask children to guess what the book will be about. Add the title and see if the answer(s) change. *Then hand out additional copies to the children.*
- **About the Author** - read information about the author (found in the back of the books) to children.

DURING READING

- **Plot Predictions** - ask for predictions of what they think will happen next, monitoring them throughout.
- **Comprehension** - ask easy general comprehension questions.
- **Identify a letter** to stand for a word and have the children make the letter (easy ones are I and T) or create a symbol to go with one of the words in the "refrain" part of a book. Every time that letter or word comes up, the kids make the word/symbol. Children can also simply clap every time they hear a particular word identified in the beginning of the story.
- **Repeated verse** – if the story has a verse that is used regularly encourage the children to say it along with you.

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- **Salad Bowl Poetry** - put vocabulary words from the books in a bowl. Play a game with the children to see who can be the first to make 10 sentences with the words from the bowl. Or see who can make the first poem using words from the bowl.
- **Fill in-the-Blanks** - take excerpts from the books, rewrite them (blackboard or on recycled paper), leaving some blanks. List the missing words at the bottom of the page. Challenge the children to fill them in!
- **Comprehension Questions** - create a short set of questions to be asked while reading or after reading some of the books.
 - *Ask the children also to say what was their favorite/least favorite part and why.*
 - *Make a "what we've learned" from reading list.*
 - *Ask the children to vote on the title – whether they think it's the best possible one and why or why not.*