Family Activities
To Encourage Reading Development

Family Game Night
- A number of family oriented or children's board games support reading. Sit down for a game of Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Life, Clue, Cranium, etc. and let the good times roll.
- Work together on word searches or simple crossword puzzles.

Read Aloud
- Kids are never too old to sit and listen to a book. Choose a book which is slightly above their reading level and bring it to life by adding expression to your reading. This will instill in your children the sense that reading is important to your family and will increase their interest level.
- Don't stop with books! Share magazine or newspaper articles, jokes, riddles, poems, etc.

Treasure Hunts
- <u>Grocery Shopping</u>

Give the children a list of items to find. For younger kids, you may want them looking for every letter "r" they can find. Beginning readers may complete a word hunt (eg. look for the word "chicken" on labels). Older or more advanced readers may actually read the shopping list to you, or search labels for particular ingredients.

- <u>Car Trips</u>

Have the children read road signs and billboards. Make it into a game by assigning points for finding particular landmarks (eg. 10 points if you can read the sign that says Lepreau). Kids can also read license plates, or tally the different models of cars they see on the road.

- <u>At Home</u>

Give children a list of household items to find around the house, hunt through the cupboards for certain brands of food, different flavours, and ingredients, or go outside to look for items in their natural environment.

- <u>In Books</u>

When reading together, have children look for and point out specific letters, words, word patterns, or sentences. Older children may hunt through a variety of books for famous lines or endings to sentences (eg. If you give a mouse a cookie...).

- <u>In Magazines/Newspapers</u>

Search for articles or information about specific topics. Look for advertisements for favourite stores/restaurants.

Following Directions

- Let children be a part of assembling or hooking up new household items. They could help out by reading directions or diagrams.
- Include kids in planning for shopping by reading grocery store ads, flyers and catalogues.
- Get the kids in on the cooking. Following recipes is an excellent way to develop reading skills.
- For more engaging activities, simple step-by-step science experiments, crafts, or art activities are a sure hit.
- Read manuals from video games, board games or electronic devices.

Notes/Letters

- Share cards, notes, e-mails and letters from friends or family members with your children. Read them together and allow them to add to the reply.
- Leave random notes in your child's lunch or around the house. This will be a nice surprise and a quick read for your child.

Sing-A-Long
- Find and print the lyrics to your children's favourite songs. Read the lyrics together and sing along to their favourite tunes.
- Share Christmas Carols over the holiday season.

Television
- Encourage them to read any words that appear during commercials or on television shows. This frequent exposure will help to add to their sight vocabulary.
- If your TV or movies have the option to show sub-text or are close captioned (with volume) turn on the option to allow the children to see the words that are being spoken.

Internet
- The internet has numerous options to support reading development. From animated and narrated books on-line to interactive games and activities, the possibilities are endless.
- A number of interesting websites have been included on the following pages.

Other
- When out to dinner, allow the kids to read the menu, look for favourites and order their meal.
- Encourage your children to read and pick out birthday or special occasion cards for family members and friends.
- Listen to a book on tape/CD while traveling. Kids can read along, or simply sit back and listen.
- Look for books which are being filmed as movies. Children may be more interested in reading if they know they will soon be able to watch the movie version.