

TIPS FOR MAKING THE HOME A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Just as parents are the child's first teacher, the home is the child's first learning environment. Parents and caregivers can help their children get the most out of everyday activities around the house.

- **Turn household chores into learning experiences.**
 - ✓ When sorting laundry ask your child to help you match colors, sort by size, and find pairs of socks that match.
 - ✓ Children as young as three can help set the table and learn how many forks or spoons to put at each place.
 - ✓ When you take your child grocery shopping point out the different colors of the apples, and let them count how many oranges to put in the bag. Point to signs and labels and read the words.
- **Let your child help you in the kitchen.**

Preschool age children can help measure ingredients, stir a batter, and fix simple snacks such as apples with peanut butter, or celery with cream cheese.
- **Build a home library.**

Starting a home library for your children shows them that books are important. Find books at garage sales, flea markets, used bookstores, and sales run by the local library branch. Show children how to treat their books, and find a special place to keep them that is easy for them to reach.
- **TV watching**

Watch television with your children and monitor what they watch to make sure the programs are age appropriate. PBS has excellent programs for young children such as *Sesame Street*, *Reading Rainbow*, and *Between the Lions*.