

## BEGINNING READING

### What to look for

#### Your child...

- ✓ Can make simple predictions and comments about a story being read
- ✓ Can tell a simple story back to you after listening to it
- ✓ Knows the letters in his or her own first name, and can recognize his or her own first name in print
- ✓ Can recognize words or signs he or she sees often (local restaurants and stores, street signs)
- ✓ Can hold and look at books right side up, turning the pages one at a time from front to back
- ✓ Knows and names at least 10 letters of the alphabet
- ✓ Can match a letter with the beginning sound of a word (such as the letter 'B' with a picture of a banana)

#### To encourage your child's beginning reading skills:

- ★ Set aside a special time each day to read with your child. Read your child's favorite books and rhymes over and over. Read some of your favorites from childhood, too. Talk with your child about the story and the characters.
- ★ Involve your child in putting pictures in order. You can use photos of your child at different ages, or pictures cut from a magazine.
- ★ Get a set of letter magnets, and put them on the refrigerator or a cookie sheet for your child to play with.
- ★ Make a name card for your child. Display the name card in a special place, and talk to your child about the names of the letters.
- ★ Using pictures from a magazine or real objects, and magnetic letters, help your child match pictures to their beginning sound.