Tips for Helping Children Read

Setting the Scene
- Help your child find a quiet, comfortable place to read.
- Read yourself. Your child will see you as a model.
- Read aloud to your child. Reread favorite stories.
- Read with your child.
- Talk about stories you read together.
- Recognize the value of silent reading, too.
- Keep reading time enjoyable and relaxed.

Responding to Mistakes
To help your child become an independent, self-correcting reader, try these ideas instead of saying “sound it out”:
- Wait 5 - 10 seconds. See what your child tries on his or her own.
- “What would make sense here?”
- “What do you think that word could be?”
- “Let’s go back to the beginning and start again.”
- “Skip that word and read to the end of the sentence (or paragraph). Now what do you think it is?”
- “Put in a word that would make sense there.”
- “You read that word before on another page. See if you can find it.”
- “Look at how that word begins. Start saying it out loud.”

Most important: focus on what your child is doing well.
Daily reading will help your child learn to read and love to read!