

## Encouraging Life-Long Readers

- Leave all sorts of reading materials including books, magazines, and colorful catalogs in conspicuous places around your home.
- Children admire and emulate the grownups in their lives. Let them see you reading for pleasure in your spare time.
- Set aside a regular time for reading in your family where everyone participates — the 20 minutes before lights out, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. Remember that at Hynes students are expected to read at least 20 minutes each night.
- Share your reactions to things you read, and encourage your children to do likewise.
- Take your children to the library regularly. Explore the children's section together. Ask a librarian to suggest books and magazines your children might enjoy.
- Read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.
- On gift-giving occasions, give books and magazines based on your child's current interests.
- Set aside a special place for children to keep their own books.
- Introduce the bookmark. Remind your youngster that you don't have to finish a book in one sitting; you can stop after a few pages, or a chapter, and pick up where you left off at another time. Don't try to persuade your child to finish a book he or she doesn't like. Recommend putting the book aside and trying another.
- Not all reading takes place between the covers of a book. What about menus, road signs, food labels, and sheet music? Take advantage of countless spur-of-the-moment opportunities for reading during the course of your family's busy day.

