

TIPS FOR BUILDING A HOME LIBRARY

Starting a home library for your children shows them how important and enjoyable books are, and having a special place for books will make your children want to read more. Children love to read the same stories over and over. -



- **Where to find them.** New picture books can cost a lot, but you can find gently used books at used bookstores, yard sales, and flea markets. Your local branch library holds book sales where you can find good picture books at low prices. Tell family and friends to give books as presents for birthdays and other holidays.

- **Where to put them.** Make a special place for your children's books that they can easily reach. A cardboard box can be decorated to create a container for books. A low shelf on a bookcase can be cleared for your child's books.

- **How to treat them.** Show your child how to handle books, and how to turn the pages. Explain that books are not for tearing or throwing. If a page does get torn, have your child help fix it with tape. Board books are more durable for toddlers, and can last through many readings.



- **Visit the library.** Regular visits to check out books from the library will add variety to your child's collection. Let your child pick books to take home, and decide together on a special place to keep the library books so they don't get mixed up with other books.

The San José Public Library would like to thank the following for their support of the Books for Little Hands program: City of San José Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, Federal Fund for the Improvement of Education, Community Foundation Silicon Valley, Children's Discovery Museum, and the San José Public Library Foundation.