**Ways to Help Your Children Develop a Love of Reading and Writing**

* Choice of reading materials and writing topics
* Vary the types of reading students do:
1. “Read Aloud” – books that are challenging or favorites you want to reread. Don’t forget to include nonfiction.
2. “Just-Right Reading” – books they can read independently.
3. “Book Looking” – anything of interest
* Read several books around one topic.
* Read several books by one author.
* Read several books in one genre (memoir, editorials, plays, fantasy, historical fiction, realistic fiction, feature articles, fairy tales).
* Partner read the text (take turns reading the text with your child – by page or paragraph).
* Read aloud even if the child can read the text.
* Read the same book and talk about it.
* Connect books from school and home – let the books travel.
* Get books to support their hobbies and interests.
* Limit video game and television time.
* Make the reading environment pleasurable (cozy spot, special snack).
* Encourage reading by allowing children to read in bed.
* Encourage your child to read different types of text – books, newspaper articles, magazines, appropriate blogs and websites.
* Read the same information as your child and talk about it.
* Find time to write authentically (letters, emails, stories, lists).
* Find ways to get their work “published’ (book reviews online, contests, magazines, or letters to the newspaper).
* Encourage your child to finish a piece of writing and give it as a gift.
* Go to book signings and talk with authors.
* Visit a favorite author’s webpage and read it together.
* Share your writing with your kids and expect them to write regularly.
* Create a camp, vacation, or special event scrapbook with photos and captions