# Reading Together

**Point to the words:** By pointing to pictures and words, children can develop letter recognition and phonemic awareness as they connect the sounds they hear with the letters on the page. It also helps children to recognize the pattern of text being read from left to right.

**Emphasize sounds and letters:** During reading, it can be helpful to highlight the sounds and letters in repetitive phrases. For instance, when encountering the phrase "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck?" the emphasis can be put on the "w" sound. As a follow-up activity, after the reading is finished, the text can be reviewed to identify all the words that start with the letter "w".

**Encourage active engagement:** Involve children in the reading process by pausing and encouraging them to complete the repeated words or phrases within the story. Facial expressions and gestures also support recall.

**Make predictions:** Pause during reading and ask children to predict what will happen next. Through repeated readings, recalling the plot can strengthen their comprehension skills and boost their confidence. In actively participating in storytelling, children build upon their critical thinking skills.

**Expand knowledge:** During reading, take breaks to provide extra information that can broaden knowledge. For instance, when reading a book about animals, a parent can pause and highlight the different species within the illustrations, discussing their unique characteristics, habitats, and other intriguing facts.

**Build vocabulary:** Repetitive phrases can also offer opportunities to introduce new words and expand vocabulary while reading books that relate to city life. For example, while reading a book about transportation, a parent can pause and explain: "A subway is a type of train that runs underground in the city. Many people take the subway to work, school, or other places." This can encourage children to ask questions and draw connections to their own experiences.

*Catch Me If You Can!*