

DON'T DISCUSS HIS READING DIFFICULTIES in front of the family or guests. Don't even talk about them in front of him. He will become more nervous than before about reading, which will not help him to read better.

DON'T COMPARE HIS READING UNFAVORABLY WITH OTHERS. It is tempting to say, "Susie was reading everything in sight when she was six. Why can't you be more like your big sister?" The only result of this kind of prodding is resentment of big sister and even more tension at reading time.

DON'T FORCE HIM TO READ AT HOME. If your child dislikes reading, you will gain nothing by forcing him to do it. Simply read stories aloud to him as you have always done and find out from his teacher what you can do to track down the reasons for his dislike.

DON'T GIVE HIM WORD DRILL. If he misses a word, tell him what it is. Don't make him say the word over and over again to try to help him remember it. A little later you can ask him to reread that part of the story, and if he still forgets the word, give it to him again. Repetition of this relaxed kind will help him. Drilling will not.

DON'T GET A SCHOOL TEXTBOOK OR WORKBOOK and try to take over the job of instruction. You may push your child ahead of his capabilities, with the result that he will dislike reading and feel nervous and inferior in that essential area of learning.

#### ENCOURAGING READING

If your child doesn't seem to be interested in books during third grade and later, some of the following may stimulate reading interest.

Find reading matter that fits his interests.

Encourage him to make scrapbooks of his hobby or his favorite subject.

Answer his questions with books.

Subscribe to a magazine for him.

Send surprises in the mail.

Set aside a regular reading time.

Have regular family "read aloud" sessions.

Give him his own books.

Join a children's book club.

Take reference books on family outings.

Play games that improve his spelling and vocabulary.

Build his own personal reference library.

Help him feel at home in libraries.