Part:	**1302 Program Operations**
Subpart:	**C-Education and Child Development Program Services**
Section:	**1302.31 Teaching and the Learning Environment**
Subject:	**Reading Stories-Effective Teaching Practices**

Policy:

Head Start/Early Head Start teaching staff will establish a daily routine of reading and discussing stories with the children. The teaching staff will use teaching practices that are developmentally age-appropriate learning experiences in language, literacy, social and emotional development, math, science, social studies, creative arts, and physical development that are focused toward achieving progress outlined in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five.

Procedure:

1. The teaching staff will choose stories and books that are developmentally age appropriate and promote growth in the developmental progressions as prescribed in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework; Ages Birth to Five.

2. Teacher/home visitor will provide books and stories with repetitive verses, words and sounds or in which the pictures follow the text closely, so that children can relate what they hear to what they see.

3. Teacher/home visitor will plan activities, so children have memorable experiences with books.

4. Head Start/Early Head Start teaching staff will use the libraries, museums, and other community resources to support emerging literacy and numeracy development in books and material to keep the children's attention and interest.

5. Children will have opportunities to participate by asking questions during and after the story.

6. The teaching staff will provide supportive feedback for learning, motivate children's continued effort, and support all children's engagement in the learning experiences and activities.

7. Children will not be forced to sit still and listen to the story.

8. If a child is having difficulty staying on task during story time, he/she will be provided an opportunity to select another quiet activity.