

Early Literacy Tips

Lay the foundation for reading success through everyday practices.

Read

- Reading to your child with excitement and enthusiasm helps make reading a special time for you and your little one. Try using silly voices!
- Make books available to your child all over your home. Keep books near their toys to demonstrate that reading is a playful activity.
- Check out a wordless picture book and encourage your child to use the pictures to tell the story.

Sing

- Sing silly rhyming songs with your child in the car or when doing chores. Singing helps children hear the smaller sounds in words - an important skill when they learn to read.
- Sing the Alphabet Song together! Switch the tune to “Mary Had a Little Lamb” or sing it backwards for a challenge.
- Sing traditional songs and nursery rhymes with your child. Nursery rhymes introduce your child to uncommonly used words like “nimble” and “contrary.”

Talk

- Try retelling a favorite story with your child without looking at the book. Oral storytelling challenges children to remember events in order and builds storytelling skills.
- Take a walk and encourage your child to talk about the world around them using their 5 senses. This practice can enhance language development and vocabulary.
- Talk with your infant or toddler like you are having a full conversation, even when they are just babbling. Ask questions and pause to let them “answer.”

Write

- Incorporate writing into your child’s imaginative play. Encourage your child to write grocery lists when playing house or traffic tickets when playing cops and robbers.
- Try tracing shapes and letters with your child’s finger to demonstrate early writing.
- Give your child plenty of writing materials even if they are in the scribbling stage.

Play

- Play “I Spy” with your child and use colors, shapes, rhyming words, and letter sounds as your clues.
- Introduce new vocabulary words to your child during imaginative play to enhance the fun and build language skills.
- Use props from around the house like stuffed animals and dolls to create new stories or retell favorites.