

# Childhood Literacy

## Did You Know?

- » The building blocks of language and literacy form in the first three years of a child's life.
- » Brain connections form through the 5 senses – sight, sound, touch, taste and smell.
- » A baby's job is to learn.
- » Early childhood experiences determine how a child's brain will develop.
- » Simple things like holding your child, talking, singing and reading to the child will form these brain connections.

### Your Child's First Teacher

You know your child best and can help them learn in ways that are best for him or her. You are their role model.

Children learn best by doing. They love doing what you do and doing things with you.



Your local library:

A place to

**LEARN** and **GROW**

and **SHARE** and

**SUCCEED.**



*Kid's Programming  
makes a  
difference!*



## A caring environment that fosters creativity and learning.

### Early Literacy Behaviors

- Book handling- turning pages, mouthing or chewing books
- Looking and recognizing – paying attention to pictures, pointing, laughing
- Picture and story comprehension – imitating actions or talking about the story
- Story reading – pretending to read or following the words with their fingers

### Early Literacy Skills

- Knowing the names of things
- Being interested in and enjoying books
- Noticing letters and words, knowing how to handle a book, knowing how to follow words on a page



## Why early literacy skills are important

Developing early literacy skills makes it easier for children to learn to read in school.

### Success in School

Reading is an essential skill to success in school.

Children who enter school with these skills have an advantage.

This advantage carries with them throughout their school years.



## Five easy ways for your child to develop skills

### Talk

Have two way conversations with your children - they learn language by listening.

Respond to what they say and add words to stretch their vocabulary.

### Sing

Sing the alphabet song so the child learns the letters.

Sing nursery rhymes so children hear the different sounds in words. Ideas for Specific Age Groups: Babies, Toddlers, Preschoolers

### Read

Reading together is the most important way to help children get ready to read.

Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to enjoy reading themselves.

Read every day. Visit the library often.

Use books to teach new words. As you read, talk about what these words mean.

Have books within easy reach or in a special spot in the house.



### Write

Encourage scribbling by providing many opportunities to write and draw. Keep crayons and paper on a table where children can return again and again.

### Play

Encourage dramatic play with puppets or stuffed animals. Making up stories this way develops narrative skills so children understand that stories have a beginning, middle and end.

