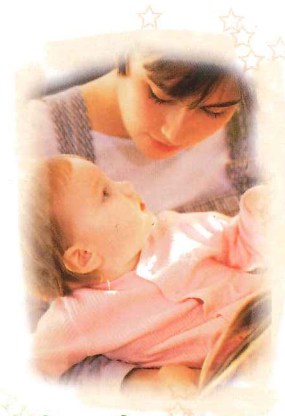


Six Pre-Reading Skills
your child can start learning from birth!

Narrative Skills

Being able to describe things and events and tell stories.

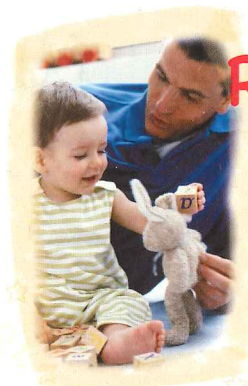


Print Motivation
Being interested in and enjoying books.



Vocabulary
Knowing the name of things.

**What You Do
Helps Your
Child Get
Ready To Read**



Phonological Awareness
Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.



Letter Knowledge
Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds and recognizing letters everywhere.



Print Awareness
Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and knowing how to follow the words on a page.

Early Literacy
Begins With You

You can help your child be
ready to read

**EVERY
CHILD
READY
TO READ**®

@ your library®

**Parent Guide to Early Literacy
for Early Talkers:
Birth to Two-Year-Olds**

A

According to research, there are six pre-reading skills that children must learn in order to learn to read.

Activities you do to support each of these skills will change as your child grows.

B

Every Child Ready to Read @ your library is a project of the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children, divisions of the American Library Association.
www.pla.org
www.ala.org/alsc

C

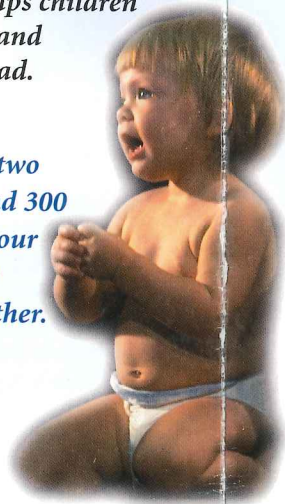
Every Child Ready To Read @ your library
www.ala.org/everychild

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Vocabulary

- ✦ Talk with your baby or toddler about what is going on around you.
- ✦ When your baby babbles or your child talks, listen carefully and answer.
- ✦ Ask your baby or toddler lots of questions. Even if she does not have the words to answer, she learns that questions are invitations for her to respond.
- ✦ Speak clearly. Use short sentences. Repeat yourself when your child shows interest.
- ✦ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- ✦ Read together every day. Books have pictures of things you may not see often. Name the pictures as you point to them—this helps children learn new words.
- ✦ **Research shows that children who have larger vocabularies are better readers. Knowing many words helps children recognize written words and understand what they read.**

By the time children are two years old, they understand 300 to 500 words. You help your child learn new words by talking and reading together.



Print Motivation

- ✦ Begin reading books early—even when your child is a newborn.
- ✦ Make book sharing time special time—just you and your baby or toddler.
- ✦ Let your baby or toddler see you reading.
- ✦ Visit your public library often.
- ✦ **Children who enjoy being read to will want to learn how to read.**

Print Awareness

- ✦ Use board books or cloth books and have your child hold the book.
- ✦ If there are only a few words on the page, point to each word as you say it.
- ✦ Read aloud every day—print labels, signs, menus. Print is everywhere!
- ✦ **Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful.**

Narrative Skills

- ✦ Talk to your child about what you are doing.
- ✦ Tell your child stories.
- ✦ Encourage your toddler to tell you about things. Listen patiently and ask questions.
- ✦ Read favorite books again and again.
- ✦ **Talking with children develops comprehension skills that will help them understand what they read.**

Phonological Awareness

- ✦ Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words.
- ✦ Add actions as you sing a song or recite a poem. This helps your child break down language into separate words.
- ✦ Singing songs is a good way to help your child hear syllables in words. In most songs, each syllable in a word gets a different note.
- ✦ Make up your own silly, nonsense rhymes.
- ✦ Say rhymes and sing songs in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- ✦ **Being able to hear the sounds that make up words helps children sound out written words as they begin to read.**

Letter Knowledge

- ✦ Help your baby and toddler see and feel different shapes as you play. (Say, “The ball is round.”)
- ✦ Read alphabet books.
- ✦ Point out letters on toys, food boxes and other objects around the house.
- ✦ Talk with your toddler about what is the same and what is different between two things.