

Develop Early Literacy Skills in Young Children with Five Easy Activities

Do these 5 activities...



Talk with your child: Children learn about language by listening and joining the conversation.



Sing with your child: Songs and Rhymes help slow down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words. If you are not comfortable singing, saying rhymes can be equally effective.



Read with your child: Shared reading is the single most important way to help children get ready to read. Reading together helps children learn how print looks and how books work. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read themselves.



Write with your child: Reading and writing go together. Along with practicing letter writing, play with crayons, glue sticks, finger paint, and blocks to help develop **fine motor skills**.



Play with your child: Play helps children express themselves and put thoughts into words. Play helps children think symbolically so they understand that spoken and written words can stand for real objects and experiences.



...to develop these skills.

Narrative Skills - Being able to describe things and events and tell stories. **Talking, singing, reading, and playing** all help develop narrative skills.



Print Motivation - Being interested in and enjoying books. **Reading** books and **playing** with letters help develop print motivation. Children love learning to **write** their name.



Vocabulary - Knowing the names of things. Lots of things. **Talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing** all help develop vocabulary. Talk about new words all the time!



Phonological Awareness - Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words. **Singing and sharing rhymes** are great ways to develop phonological awareness, along with **talking and reading**.



Letter Knowledge - Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds and recognizing letters. **Reading** books and **playing** with letters and **writing** help develop letter knowledge.



Print Awareness - Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and knowing how to follow the words on a page. **Reading** and **talking** about print all around you are great ways to develop print awareness, along with writing.

