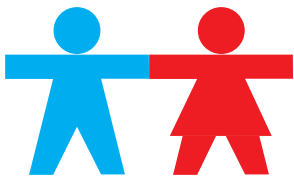


Raising a Reader

The preschool years are a wonderful time to share the joy of reading with your child. Getting ready to read is more than just knowing the alphabet. You can enhance Early Literacy development by reading aloud to your child, talking, listening, singing and using creative dramatics. You are the greatest teacher for your preschooler because you know your child better than anyone else. Here are some practical ways you can encourage your child's love of reading and develop pre-reading skills:

- Surround your child with books. Provide an assortment of titles in your child's play area, bed and in the car—not just on the bookshelf.
- Give books as presents for birthdays and holidays.
- Meet your local librarian and learn about great books, both old and new.
- Use chants, songs and rhymes to accompany everyday activities.
- Add actions as you chant or sing.
- Ask your child questions while you read a familiar story, or encourage your child to tell you the story from the pictures.
- Encourage your child to tell stories to family members or friends.
- Play "let's pretend," "I spy," or other games that encourage the use of language.
- Be a role model for your preschooler. Let your child see you enjoying books.



Early Literacy

Early Literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read or write. Children develop skills important to reading several years before they ever start school. Parents can help children become successful learners and readers by developing the following Early Literacy skills, starting at birth:

Print Motivation—Interest and Enjoyment in Books

- Read together every day and make it fun!
- Read many different types of books with your child. Be willing to read a favorite story over and over again.
Your preschooler enjoys the repetition.

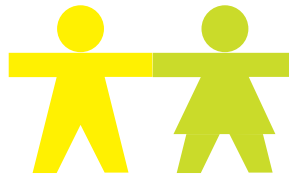
Print Awareness—Noticing print; how to handle a book and understand how to follow the words on a page

- Point to some of the words on the page as you read to your child.
- As you drive in the car, read street signs, billboards and store signs to your child. Talk about what they mean.

Vocabulary—Knowing the names

of things

- Talk with your child about what is going on around you to build his vocabulary.
- Teach your preschooler new words. Define new words in ways that your child can understand.



Narrative Skill—Being able to describe things and events and tell stories

- Share a book that your child already knows and then have him tell the story back to you.
- Ask open-ended questions about the book you are reading. Ask questions that are answered by more than "yes/no," or by simply pointing at the page. For example, ask: "What do you think is going to happen?" or "Why do you think he did that?"
- Check out wordless books from the library. Have your child tell you a story that goes with the pictures.
- Letter Knowledge—Knowing the names, shapes and sounds of letters
- Point out and name letters while reading books to your child.
- Read alphabet books and sing the alphabet song.
- Teach your child how to print her name.
- Phonological Awareness—The ability to hear and play with smaller sounds in words, such as identifying rhymes
- Read poetry and nursery rhymes.
- Select a letter of the day and find words and objects that start with the sound of that letter.
- Sing songs! Songs have different notes for each syllable in a word, helping to break them down into their phonological parts.



Fun Reading Activities for You & Your Preschooler

- Play interactive music CDs, singing and dancing along with your preschooler. Make instrument shakers by filling film canisters with rice or beans to accompany the music.
- With your preschooler, make up stories and act them out using puppets, costumes or toys. You can make simple puppets from socks or cardboard tubes.
- Cut out felt letters and shapes. Let your child play with the pieces on a felt board. You can make a simple felt board by gluing a square of felt onto a piece of cardboard.
- Join in Preschool Story Time at your local library.
- Check out books on topics that interest your child, such as: ballet, trains or dinosaurs.
- Play word-rhyming games with your child. Make up your own silly, nonsense rhymes together.
- Let your preschooler draw a story on paper, while you write down the story as your child tells it. Then read the story together.
- Read aloud and follow the directions of a recipe together.



Resources

Bickart, Toni

Reading Right from the Start: What parents can do in the first five years. 649.58

Codell, Esme Raji

How to Get Your Child to Love Reading. 028.55

Creating a Lifelong Reader. VT649.58

Hauser, Jill

Wow! I'm Reading: Fun activities to make reading happen. J372.416

Hearne, Betsy Gould

Choosing Books for Children: A commonsense guide. 011.62

Kaye, Peggy

Games with Books: 28 of the best children's books and how to use them to help your child learn from preschool to third grade. 028.534

Lipson, Eden Ross.

The New York Times Parent's Guide to the Best Books for Children. 011.62

McGuinness, Diane

Growing a Reader from Birth: Your child's path from language to literacy. 372.4

Trelease, Jim

The Read-Aloud Handbook. 372.452

Silberg, Jackie and Pam Schiller.

The Complete Book of Rhymes, Songs, Poems, Fingerplays, and Chants. 811.008928

Web Sites

www.readyatfive.org

Tips for parents to promote early literacy
www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/publications/reading_pre.pdf

A Child Becomes a Reader—summarizes early literacy skills
www.famlit.org

National Center for Family Literacy

Rev. 4/07

Raising Readers Preschoolers



Fun and easy ideas
to develop the love of
reading in your child.



kcls.org