



Literacy

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Literacy begins at birth and builds on relationships and experiences that occur during infancy and early childhood. For example, introducing a child to books at an early age contributes to a later interest in reading. Reading together while he or she sits on your lap promotes bonding and feelings of trust. The give-and-take nature of babbling, lap games, songs, and rhymes set the stage for sharing favorite picture books. Exposure to logos, signs, letters, and words leads to the knowledge that symbols have meaning. The acquisition of skills such as looking, gesturing, recognizing and understanding pictures, handling books, and scribbling lay the groundwork for conventional reading and writing. A love for books comes from holding, turning pages, looking at pictures, and living the stories written.

1. Model reading and writing behaviors.
2. Embed the use of objects, symbols or words throughout the child's day.
3. Incorporate rhythm, music, finger plays and mime games.
4. Provide opportunities for handling and exploring reading and writing materials.
5. Teach print and book awareness.
6. Teach name, name sign and/or personal identifier of child and those the child interacts with on a regular basis.
7. Embed literacy learning activities into routines.

Watch for the child to show signs of anticipation while playing turn-taking games or move in rhythm to songs and music you've listened to together. Allow children to get "up close and personal" to reading and writing items around the house. Point out and talk about signs, symbols, and words you see at school, day care, the grocery store, and out in the community.

Here are some ideas to help you:

- Tell stories as you do the housework.
- Hang the alphabet up on a clothesline.
- Make rhymes a part of every day.
- Make a salt tray. Pour a container of salt onto a cookie tray. Preschoolers use their fingers to "write" in the salt. They can make letters if they want, or just scribble.
- Trace letters on your child's back.
- Read books. Read books. Read books. There is no greater preschool literacy activity, none that takes so little effort on your part, than spending 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the evening reading picture books to your preschooler.
- What do you think? Can you do these ideas? What is your very favorite activity to enhance your child's literacy?
- Take time to teach Nursery Rhymes.

Humpty Dumpty Sat on a WALL,



Humpty Dumpty had a great FALL;



All the King's horses and all the King's men couldn't put Humpty together again.

Source: literacy.nationaldb.org/index.php/early-emergent-literacy/

Father/Male Involvement Activity: Take your child to the library and read a book or take one home to read. Talk about what was read in a silly voice.