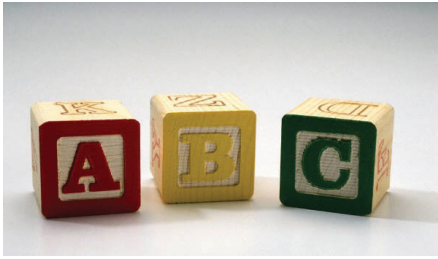


What is Early Literacy?



- ◆ Early literacy is everything children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.
- ◆ A child's early experiences with books and language lay the foundation for success in learning to read. Toddlers need to **move**, so don't worry if they play or roam as you read to them. They may be moving, but they are listening.
- ◆ Rather than think about teaching your child, have fun together. When you read, talk, and play – you are stimulating the growth of your child's brain, building the connections that will become the building blocks for reading and learning.



According to child development researchers, there are six skills that children need to have in order to learn to read:

- ◆ **Vocabulary:** knowing the names of things
- ◆ **Print Motivation:** interest in and enjoyment of books
- ◆ **Print Awareness:** knowing how to follow the words on the pages of a book
- ◆ **Letter Knowledge:** recognizing letters and knowing their names
- ◆ **Narrative:** being able to understand and tell stories and being able to describe things
- ◆ **Phonological Sensitivity:** the ability to hear the smaller sounds in words

What can you do?

- ◆ **Narrative Skills:**
 - Tell stories together.
 - Recite rhymes.
 - Sing Songs.
 - Encourage pretend play.
 - Let your child be a storyteller.
 - Pause to let your toddler finish a phrase or chant a refrain.
 - Talk with and listen to your child as you play and do daily activities.
 - Play the role of listener, questioner, and audience for your child.
- ◆ **Letter Knowledge:**
 - Help your child identify the first letter in his/her name.
 - Find this familiar letter in books, on signs, and on labels.
- ◆ **Print Awareness:**
 - Point out the Title and the Author.
 - Help your child understand how to hold the book.
 - Let your child turn the pages.
 - Show your child how the words read from left to right.
- ◆ **Vocabulary:**
 - Tell your child the names of things.
- ◆ **Print Motivation:**
 - Read books featuring animals or machines which encourage action and making sounds.
 - Share books with flaps or different textures to touch and keep hands busy.
 - Follow your child's interests when selecting books.
- ◆ **Phonological Awareness:**
 - Sing songs, play games and share rhymes to help your child sense the smaller sounds in words

Nursery Rhymes and Fingerplay Ideas:

Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes
When You're Happy and You Know It
This Little Piggy
I'm a Little Teapot
Ring Around the Rosie
Pop Goes the Weasel
One Two, Buckle My Shoe
Eensy Weensy Spider

Make learning fun:

- ◆ Encourage any attempt at "writing," regardless of how messy.
- ◆ Let your child make shapes or letters in shaving cream on a table top.
- ◆ Sponge paint letters.
- ◆ Play Eye Spy with letters or words in a book on a cereal box or on signs.
- ◆ Start a funny sentence... for example, "I like big fluffy ____" and then fill in the blank.

TAKE A BOOK with you wherever you go with your child. You will have time to read while waiting in the doctor's office, pushing your child through the grocery store, taking a break at the mall, or having your oil changed.

Great Books for Toddlers

EPB B	Colors
EPB J	Over Under
EPB K	Pat the Bunny
EPB Oxenbury	All Fall Down
EPB P	Pat a Cake
EPB W	Wheels on the Go
E Brown	Runaway Bunny
E Keats	The Snowy Day
E Raffi	Baby Beluga
E Shaw	Sheep in a Jeep

When you are reading:

- ◆ Take a "book walk" when you first open a picture book. Look through it before you actually read it.
- ◆ Have your toddler turn the pages and name the pictures.
- ◆ Using puppets, retell the story that has just been read.
- ◆ Ask "what" and "where" questions about details in the picture.
- ◆ With favorite stories, pause and omit a word occasionally for your toddler to fill in.
- ◆ Point occasionally to words as you read them.
- ◆ Make up new stories from old books.

Websites for Early Reading Activities:

<http://www.starfall.com/>
<http://www.sesamestreet.org/home>
<http://www.thepotters.com/ltrain/activities.html>
http://www.fisherprice.com/fp.aspx?st=10&e=gamesLanding&mcat=game_infant,game_toddler,game_preschool&site=us

Early Literacy Activities for Toddlers



Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

Youth Services 837-3466

