



Preschool Literacy Tips for Families



Parents and teachers are essential partners in a preschool child's development of reading, writing, and language skills. Family members can do the following activities at home to encourage preschool literacy. Be a model for your child. Children learn that reading and writing are important when they see adults using these skills!

- **Spend time in conversation** with your child to develop vocabulary and knowledge of the world. Label what you see and explain how things work. *Oral Language*
- **Play with language** to help your child listen to rhymes and letter sounds. Read nursery rhymes and other rhyming books. See how many rhyming words you can think of together: hop, top, bop, mop, lop, stop, drop, and flop. Use words that start with the same letter (alliteration) and help your child to hear the letter sounds- ex: 'Big Bob bounced a ball.' *Phonological Awareness*
- **Teach your child about letters and words.** Notice words and letters in the world around you. Read cereal boxes and favorite snacks. Post your child's name in his or her room. Point out the letters in your child's name that you see in signs and billboards around town. *Alphabet Knowledge*
- **Read aloud with your child every day.** Talk about the stories you read to make them more meaningful to your child. Children will learn about books and print, for example: we read the words, rather than the pictures, from left to right, and from the front of a book to the back. *Print Concepts*
- **Encourage your child to draw and write** by allowing access to pencils, crayons, markers, chalk and a variety of paper. Activities to develop the muscle strength needed to be able to write successfully include: playing with play dough, tearing and crumpling paper, scooping and pouring, using Lego blocks, sticking stickers, and using tongs. Help your child send a letter or write an important list. *Writing*
- **Use your child's native language** when you talk, read, write, play and sing. This will create a strong sense of self and support your child's roots in addition to building a solid foundation of basic language concepts. Remember that you are the first and most important educator in your child's life. *English Language Learners*



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