

# Making Reading and Writing Meaningful

## *Ideas for Parents of Preschoolers*

Choose activities that best suit your child's interests.

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- Call attention to the different types of written materials in your home such as labels, newspapers, magazines, and greeting cards.



- Point out print in the environment such as billboards, menus, signs, and names of restaurants.
- Place name cards of family members on the refrigerator. Children can use magnetic letters to spell the names underneath.
- Provide print materials such as menus, tickets, maps, and catalogues for children to use in pretend play.
- Involve children as you create a grocery list. Talk about the names of some of the letters and words as you write them.
- Help children "read" labels as they shop.



- Give them coupons and ask them to help find the items.
- Cook with children and let them help you follow the recipe.
- Ask children to help you identify cereal boxes during breakfast.
- Cut labels from snack boxes such as Teddy Grahams and glue them into a homemade book titled *Snacks We Like*.



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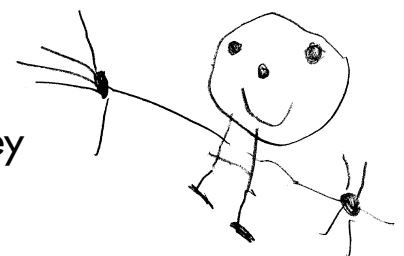
- Hold up two cans of vegetables and ask, "Should we have carrots or green beans?" Point out the words for the vegetables.
- Make a scrapbook together after a family event. Let children dictate what to write under the photos.

- Let children help you look up phone numbers. Talk about what you are writing as you jot down names and numbers.



- Fix a container of "office materials" for children to use. Choose from materials such as, pens, pencils, scented markers, glitter crayons, white paper, colored paper, fancy paper with designs, envelopes, hole puncher, tape dispenser, stapler, stamps, stamp pads, stickers, and scissors.

- Help children make cards for holiday and family events.
- It is important to accept and encourage all attempts from your children as they begin to write. As they practice and feel successful, they will progress at their own pace from the scribbling stage to writing recognizable letters.
- Ask a relative to be a pen pal. Children can draw pictures or copy simple words to mail to the person. Children enjoy drawing and writing when they know they will get a letter in return.



- Talk to children about the letters and words you are writing when you write a message to a family member. Encourage them to help you write part of the message.
- Encourage children to draw pictures and dictate stories to you. They enjoy seeing their words written down.
- Put notes from you in children's lunch boxes or book bags.