

Reading Together

Dialogic or “Hear and Say” Reading

How you read to children is as important as how often you read.

Children learn more from books when they are actively involved.

Ask questions like “*What do you think is going on here?*” or “*Tell me what you see on this page?*”

Follow your child’s answers with another question.

Repeat what your child says and expand on it.

Follow your child’s interests and remember to have fun!

Types of Books to Read

- Books that tell simple stories
- Books with rhymes and/or repetition
- Books with bright, bold, colorful pictures
- Counting, alphabet and simple concept books (shapes, sizes, colors)
- Board Books
- Books with familiar situations (going to the park, eating dinner)
- Song books
- Books about feelings and actions
- Books with their favorite characters

Recommended Books for Birth to 3 Year-Olds

Bang, Molly. TEN, NINE, EIGHT

Boynton, Sandra.
MOO, BAA, LA LA LA!

Brown, James. FARM

Gravett, Emily.
ORANGE PEAR APPLE BEAR

Henkes, Kevin. A GOOD DAY

Hines, Anna Grossnickle.
1, 2, BUCKLE MY SHOE

Katz, Karen. BABIES ON THE BUS

Light, Steve. TRAINS GO

Melling, David.
SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLOSH!

Na, Il Sung. A BOOK OF BABIES

Opie, Iona.
MY VERY FIRST MOTHER GOOSE

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro.
DOG AND BEAR

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Early Literacy Skills

Birth to 3 years



***Recommended by the
Nassau Library System
and
Your Local Public Library***

What is Early Literacy?

Early Literacy begins with you. You can help your child be ready to read during the all important first five years of life.

Research has shown that healthy brain development from birth to five is vital to being ready to read. When you talk, read, and play with your child, you are building those vital connections in the brain and developing early literacy skills.

You may be surprised to learn that early literacy is many things; chewing on a board book, reading a story over and over, singing a song, scribbling and recognizing and remembering a favorite picture book.

Children learn best by doing. Take every chance you have to read with your child, tell them stories, talk to them about your surroundings, tell them a goofy story, recite nursery rhymes, and don't forget to sing!

Early literacy is not anything like real school. So ditch the flash cards, the workbooks and the drills, and have fun! The more relaxed you are, the more your child will want to continue. The following describes the five different ways you can help your child get ready to read.

Help Your Child Get Ready to Read and Related Activities

Talking

Children learn language by listening to their parents talk and having conversations.

Activity: Ask your child questions they can answer about their surroundings.



Reading

Reading together is the single most important way to help children get ready to read.

Activity: Read together every day. Ask questions as you read. Use books to help teach new words and talk about what they mean.

Writing

Reading and writing go together. Both represent spoken language.

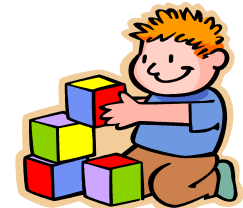
Activity: Encourage scribbling and drawing. Have them "sign" their name to it. Talk to your children about what they draw. Let them make up stories based on their drawings.



Singing

Singing slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words.

Activity: Sing the alphabet song and nursery rhymes. Clap along to the rhythms in songs so they can hear the syllables in words.



Playing

Play helps children think symbolically so they understand that words stand for real objects and experiences. Play also helps children express themselves and put thoughts into words.

Activity: Play simple games like peek-a-boo and open-shut-them with your baby. Encourage dramatic play. Leave time for unstructured play.