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Literacy



Children learn that words can be spoken, listened to, read and written. Children at this age become excited about using pictures and letters to communicate.

Reading out loud to your child on a regular basis is so important. This activity helps your child learn to read. By being exposed to books and print and through conversations about the people and events important to them, your child will discover that they can share their ideas through written words.

Books Your Child Will Enjoy

Night in the Country by Cynthia Rylant
Night Noises by Mem Fox
Alphabet City by Stephen T. Johnson
The Jolly Postman by Allen Ahlberg
The Day of Ahmed's Secret by Florence H. Parry

Get ready to have fun. You can help your child:

- **Listen** and respond to stories, poems, rhymes and songs
- **Discover** that print is everywhere
- **Read** different kinds of books together
- **Express** themselves in different ways such as drawing, scribbling and pretend writing
- **Learn** some letters and words, especially the letters in their own name


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Writing

Provide your child with opportunities to explore early writing – an important part of developing your child's literacy skills.

Literacy **4.1**

- ➡ Create a writing box. Fill the box with writing supplies that your child can use such as crayons, markers, pencils, pens and different kinds of paper.
- ➡ Encourage scribbling and pretend writing and provide support and encouragement for writing letters. Once your child learns to write a few letters, you can expect to see pretend spelling.
- ➡ Let your child sit side-by-side with you when you are busy with paper work. Your child can be busy with their own work as well.
- ➡ As you write notes and letters to friends and relatives, give your child the opportunity to dictate a personal message that you can include in the note
- ➡ Write stories together about things your child likes or experiences that you have shared together
- ➡ Once your child learns to write a few letters, help them write the letters in their name


RI* Family Favorite
SHAVING CREAM LETTERS

What you need:

- ➡ Cookie Sheet
- ➡ Shaving Cream



Spread shaving cream on the cookie sheet. You and your child can spread the shaving cream with your fingers so that it covers the bottom of the sheet. Name a letter and write it in the cream – have your child copy it and then rub to erase. Make the sound that goes with the letter. You can write your child's name and other familiar words. Your child will love how the shaving cream feels!

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★ Use the back of this card to have your child write their name from left to right. Don't worry about what the letters look like... ➡

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Nurture a Love for Reading

The love of reading is a life-long gift that you can give your child!

When reading to your child:

- Let your child choose a book. Find a cozy, comfortable place to sit together.
- Read the title or name of the book out loud, followed by the names of the author (the person who wrote the book) and the illustrator (the person who made the pictures)
- As you read, change voices for the different characters
- After reading a few pages, wonder out loud about the characters and the story. Ask, "What do you think will happen next?"
- After reading the book, talk about the story. Ask questions and encourage your child to ask questions too!
- Have your child retell the story to someone else like mom, dad, sister, brother or grandparent
- Tell stories and read to your child in the language that is spoken at home
- And...**reread favorite books!**



Books are Special

- 📖 Reserve a place in your home that is within your child's reach for their books and magazines
- 📖 Introduce your child to different kinds of books to see which are most interesting
- 📖 Build your collection by borrowing from the library or going to yard sales and second hand stores. As you add books to your child's collection, be on the lookout for:
 - Books on any subjects your child shows an interest in like dinosaurs, trains, sports or dogs
 - Favorite story and picture books
 - Books on colors, shapes, sizes and families
 - Stories with repetition
 - Fairy tales and folk tales
 - Alphabet and counting books



You can even **download books** off the Internet! Here are some websites for you to visit:



- www.pbs.org/parents
- www.kidzone.ws
- www.starfall.com

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★ Use the back of this card to list your child's favorite books... ➡

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Letters and Words

Look around at all the examples of print to read and share with your child.

- Sort the mail together. Give your child the junk mail to open and pretend to read. Read letters, cards or postcards sent to your house out loud.
- Let your child play with old greeting cards and pretend to send them to family and friends
- Read the newspaper comics and look at the ads together
- When in a restaurant, share your menu with your child. Point to the items in the kid's menu as you read their choices.
- Read the traffic signs, billboards, store and restaurant signs out loud as you drive in the car
- Have your child join you at the computer as you read and send email messages
- Read cereal boxes, seed packets and the titles of CDs and DVDs
- Place labels on a few objects in your home like the bed and the chair in your child's room



A During their preschool years, children learn to name some of the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make.

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

i

j

k

l

m

n

o

p

q

r

s

t

u

v

w

x

y

z

• Children usually learn to **match** letters that look alike first. Then, they are able to **point** to a letter when you name it. Lastly, they can **name** the letters on their own.

• Help your child to search for certain letters on street signs, stores, restaurants and license plates while you are in the car

• If you have a set of magnetic letters, put them on the refrigerator. Make your child's name with the letters. Together, name the letters and the sounds they make.

• Allow your child to use the computer keyboard or an old typewriter to write different letters and write their name

RI* Family Favorite

NAME THAT LETTER

Write a few letters on a piece of paper such as A, O and W. Use your finger to write one letter on your child's back. Ask your child to find it on the paper. Name the letter for your child. Switch places!

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Tuning Into Sounds

With help from you, your child will begin to notice certain sounds in words. Some words rhyme at the end like “bug” and “rug.” Your child will then start to recognize the sounds at the beginning of words.

Rhyming

- Sing songs, repeat familiar nursery rhymes and read books that are written in rhyming words
- Make up rhymes with your child. Ask your child, “What rhymes with cat?” (sat, bat, mat) or “What rhymes with tall?” (ball, fall, mall).

Help your child begin to notice the sounds at the beginning of words:



Write a letter on the front of a paper bag. You can begin with the first letter of your child’s name or a letter your child already knows. Together, find small items around the house that start with the same sound as the letter. Place the items in the bag. As your child puts them into the bag, name the objects together. Give your child plenty of practice finding objects that begin with the same sound. Then you can play the game by using two bags and two letters. After you have two bags filled with household objects, put all the items on the table. Together, put the objects in the correct letter bags. Over time, you can introduce more letters.

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Family Favorite

A BOOK OF MY OWN

Create a book with your child that includes important events and activities that occur both at home and at school:

- Start your book by using a three-ring binder or make one yourself by stapling construction paper together
- Look through magazines with your child and cut out and glue pictures to decorate the cover. Let your child choose the pictures.
- Begin to fill the pages with pictures your child draws of favorite people, places and events. Include family pictures
- Label the pages by having your child tell you what to write under each picture
- Let your child’s teacher know about the book so that school activities can be included



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Tell Me a Story

Have your child tell you their favorite story and write it down here...

TITLE:

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