

Activities that Encourage Reading

Books that Invite Participation

If a child is involved in a story, he or she will be more interested. Try some of these titles the next time you visit the library:

Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet Ahlberg
E AHLBERG

The Little Red Hen by Byron Barton
E BARTON

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
E CARLE

In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming
E FLEMING

Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino
E GUARINO

Jump, Frog, Jump! by Robert Kalan
E KALAN

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann
E RATHMANN

Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas
E THOMAS

Who is Driving? by Leo Timmers
E TIMMERS

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus
by Mo Willems (E WILLEMS)

Books with Rich Language

Picture books contain words that people don't often use in everyday conversation. The more words a child hears, the easier it will be when he starts to read. Here are some books with rich language:

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
E HENKES

Bubble Trouble by Margaret Mahy
E MAHY

I Stink! by Jim McMullan
E MCMULLAN

Skippyjon Jones by Judy Schachner
E SCHACHNER

Otis by Loren Long
E LONG

Every Child Ready to Read is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

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Overview

Whether your child is four days old or four years old, it is not too early or too late to help him or her develop important literacy and pre-reading skills. Doing this now will make it easier for your child to learn to read when he or she starts school.

Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are

- Talking
- Singing
- Reading
- Writing
- Playing

These practices are easy to do with children of all ages and can be done at home, at the doctor's office, in the car, or anywhere you and your child spend time together.

This handout's focus is on reading.



Reading is the Key

Reading together or shared reading:

- Develops vocabulary and comprehension
- Nurtures a love for reading
- Motivates children to want to learn to read

No matter what your child's age, reading together with your child—or shared reading—is the single most important activity that you can do to help your child get ready to read.

You may have heard the phrase, “Read to your child for 20 minutes a day.” But many young children can't sit still for 20 minutes at a time, and that's a hard goal to reach. What's more important is to read for a few minutes at a time or however long your child seems interested rather than trying to get through the book or reach 20 minutes.

Reading books introduces children to “rarer” words that they may not hear in everyday conversation. Knowing more words helps children become better readers.

Shared reading develops a love of reading and an appreciation of books. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read themselves. A child's interest in reading is an important predictor of later reading achievement.

Places to Read

Create a special space for your children to look at books. Have a comfortable chair or pillows and a small shelf or basket for favorite books. Make sure there's room for you and your child to sit together and that your child can reach books without needing help. Encourage your child to pretend to read a book to a favorite stuffed animal.

Have a special spot for library books. Keep a list of favorite books to check out and the names of authors you especially enjoy.

Write down questions your child asks. On your next visit to the library, look for books related to your child's interests. Nonfiction, or “informational” books, are available in many topics.

Show your child that reading is important by letting him or her see *you* read.