

## Comprehension

Comprehension is the ability to understand and draw meaning from text. By reading aloud to children, you build their vocabulary and comprehension.

When reading, stop and talk with your child to build comprehension skills.

- Stop and talk about the pictures.
- Say, "What do you see in the picture?"
- Ask, "What do you think will happen?"
- Make connections between a story and real life. Ask, "Do you remember when...?"



## Writing

Children are never too young to see themselves as authors. Preschool children draw pictures to tell their stories. They will use some letter-like forms, letters, or temporary spellings to create text.

Help your child learn what it means to be a writer.

- Create a writing box which includes pencils, markers, paper, envelopes, scissors, notebook, glue stick, etc.
- Make lists with pictures or words.
- Write messages together.
- Help your child hear/write the first sound in a familiar word. For example: dad or mom.



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## Reading and Writing Activities for Preschool Children



Part 1 of 3  
Preschool Home Literacy Activities



# It's never too early to begin reading and writing with your child.

Read a favorite book with your child and share how much you love it! We read aloud and write with children for the same reasons we talk with them: to reassure, entertain, bond, inform, build curiosity, and inspire.

When you read and write together, it goes further than conversation. It creates background knowledge, builds vocabulary, provides a role model, and helps your child become a reader and writer.

This brochure includes activities to help your preschool child develop these literacy skills:

- Print Concepts
- Phonological Awareness
- Letter-sound Knowledge
- Oral Language
- Comprehension
- Writing

Enjoy the provided activities with your child to help him or her begin to see themselves as an effective reader, writer, speaker, and listener!

## Print Concepts

In developing print concepts, children begin to understand how print works and the fact that print carries meaning.

When reading aloud to your child:

- Show your child the name of the author and illustrator.
- Point out where the pictures and words are on the pages of a book.



## Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness is the ability to hear the sounds in words. This is an essential skill that predicts early reading success! Help your child hear rhyme.

- Read a rhyming book.
- Point to words that rhyme. For example: cat and hat.
- Use your voice to make it clear.
- Ask your child to pick out the rhyming words on each page.
- Stop at the end of a line so your child can guess the next word.

### Examples of books that rhyme:

*Llama Llama Red Pajama*, by Anna Dewdney  
*Goodnight Moon*, by Margaret Wise Brown  
*Bear Snores On*, by Karma Wilson

### Sing songs and nursery rhymes:

Itsy Bitsy Spider  
 Humpty Dumpty  
 Down by the Bay



## Letter-Sound Knowledge

Knowledge of letter-sound relationships is an essential skill used in reading and writing. Being able to quickly recognize letters is helpful in attaching sounds to the correct letters when reading and writing.

Help your child identify letters and sounds in his or her environment.

- Make your child's name with magnetic letters on the refrigerator.
- Point to a letter and say its name and sound. For example, "This is the letter M. It says /mmm/."

Find letters on:

- Signs
- Books
- License plates
- Labels in the grocery store
- Restaurant menus



## Oral Language

Oral language development precedes and provides a foundation for written language development. You are helping children become readers and writers when you help them to give and follow directions, listen to their stories, and allow them to talk about new things they are learning.

Help your child build oral language skills by encouraging him or her to:

- take turns listening and speaking.
- look at the person speaking.
- use social language such as "hello" and "thank you."
- talk about a simple process with two or more steps such as making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

