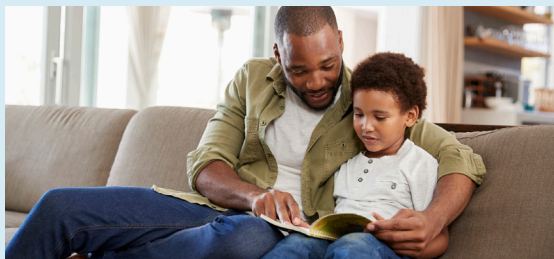


Comprehension

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

When reading with your child, stop and talk to build new vocabulary.

- First, stop and point out interesting words.
- Then, give a child-friendly definition.
Example: Stop and point to the word feast. Say, "Feast, that's a really big dinner."



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 an author:

- Provide your child with a stapled booklet of paper (3 or 4 pages) to create a short picture book.
- As your child creates their book, you might ask:
 - "What is your book going to be about?"
 - "What will you put on the first page? Second?"
 - "What could you add?"
 - "Tell me about this page in your book?"
 - "What is the title of your book?"
 - "Sometimes books have pictures and words. Do you think you could add some words?"
 - "Will you read me your story?"



"Children are
made readers
on the laps
of their
parents."

-Emilie Buchwald



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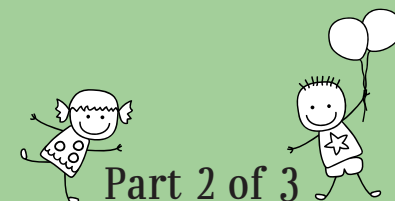
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Reading and Writing
Activities for
Preschool Children



Part 2 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!

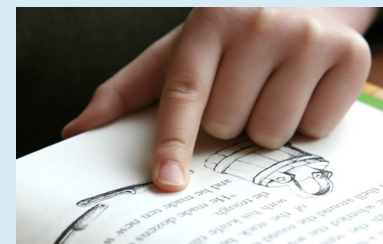
(Trelease, 2013)

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:

- Ask, "Where do you start reading?" Point to the first word on the page.
- Sweep your finger under the print as you read and say, "When I read, I go this way."
- Say, "Let's count the words on this page." Point at each word as you count.



Phonological Awareness

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

Alliteration is when two or more words in a row begin with the same sound. Help your child hear words that start with the same sound.

- Point out words that begin with the same beginning sound as your child's name. For example: Ben and ball. Talk about how the beginning sounds of the words are the same.
- Read aloud and point out two words in a row that begin with the same sound. For example, say, "Moose and muffin both start with the /mmm/ sound."

Examples of books that have alliteration:

In the Small, Small Pond, by Denise Fleming

Each Peach Pear Plum, by Jane and Allan Ahlberg

Alligators All Around, by Janelle Doak



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 their name.

- Make a name puzzle game. Write your child's name and cut it apart between each letter. Discuss letter names and sounds as you help your child put the letters in order. For example, "This is the letter M. It says /mmm/."



Oral Language

Oral language development provides a foundation for written language development. Children become better readers and writers when they have opportunities to give and follow directions, tell stories, and talk about new information they are learning.

Help your child build oral language skills by encouraging him or her to tell stories.

- Discuss past or future family events.
- Tell a make believe story together.
- Have your child talk aloud about their play when using toys such as dolls, action figures, animals, or cars.
- Ask, "Can you tell me more?" or "What happened next?"

