

## Early Literacy Skills

### Story

Tell stories with your child, encourage pretend play, let your child be the storyteller. These activities will foster the **narrative skills** your child will need later for reading, and eventually, for writing.

### Sounds

Sing songs, play games with words, and share rhymes to help your child focus on the smaller sounds in words. These fun activities will foster the **phonological awareness** necessary to prepare for reading, model good diction, and create positive associations as motivation for later learning.

### Books

Find books that speak to your child's interests and share them often. "Read it again" from a child tells you that you are successfully fostering **print motivation**.

### Direction

Help your child discover how to hold a book and turn the pages. Occasionally, run your finger under the print as you read. All these activities foster **print awareness** in young children.

### Words

Say the names of things and describe them. This develops **vocabulary**, which the child needs to speak, and later, to read.

### Letters

Help your child identify the first letter in his/her name. Make a game of finding it in books, on street signs and package labels. Show your child numbers and make a game of counting the number out on fingers, toes, and other things. Both are considered **letter knowledge**, which a child needs as a building block to reading.

## Literacy Development

### What Parents Can Do:

- Keep using books in routines.
- Read at bedtime.
- Be willing to read the same book over and over.
- Ask "What's that?"
- Relate books to child's everyday life.
- Carry snacks, toys, books everywhere.
- Prepare child for new experiences with brief explanations in advance.
- Practice sharing and taking turns.
- Give choice between two things whenever possible.

### What Your Child Can Do at This Age:

- Recites whole phrases.
- Coordinates text with picture.
- Protests when adult gets a word wrong in a familiar story.
- Reads favorite stories to self.

### Books for This Age:

- Silly books, funny books.
- Rhymes, rhythms, repetitious text.
- Books about children and families.
- Books about making friends.
- Books about animals and trucks.

### Remember...

Model the behavior you want your child to learn. Never use spanking or other physical punishment.



The process of brain development for reading starts before birth through quiet talking and singing to your baby.

It continues after birth through touch, love, eye contact, one-on-one interaction and repetition.

The ritual of talking together and sharing books starts early.

Learning to read comes later.

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	STORY	BOOKS	SOUNDS	DIRECTION	WORDS	LETTERS
AT HOME	[ ] Read a book then ask your child to act out the story.	[ ] Make cookies or a snack using a recipe.	[ ] Say a familiar rhyme or make up a silly rhyme together.	[ ] Practice rhyming by changing the initial sounds in words.	[ ] Point out the letters in your child's name.	[ ] Play with magnetic letters on the refrigerator. Spell out your child's name.
ON THE GO	[ ] Listen to story songs on tape or CD.	[ ] Read a story about traveling.	[ ] Sing songs together.	[ ] Let your child look at a picture dictionary.	[ ] Read about a plane trip.	[ ] Make each day a special letter day. Look for the letter, make the letter, etc. Do the letters of your child's name.
AT THE LIBRARY	[ ] Attend a story time or other library program.	[ ] Check out only green-covered books today.	[ ] Attend a story time or music program.	[ ] Let your child select the books.	[ ] Read an information book.	[ ] Read an alphabet book. Point out the letters of your child's name.
IN THE STORE	[ ] Share <i>Eating the Alphabet</i> and go to the grocery store.	[ ] Spend time in the produce department -let your child smell and feel the produce.	[ ] Find rhyming words to common foods.	[ ] Talk about how you will cook/ prepare/ use the items that you buy.	[ ] Explain the process of shopping. Play grocery store.	[ ] Go on an alphabet hunt. "How many Gs can we see today?"
AT BEDTIME	[ ] As you read, ask your child what is happening in the pictures.	[ ] Cuddle and read bedtime stories.	[ ] Sing lullabies.	[ ] Point out how the pictures relate to the story.	[ ] Ask your child to point out familiar objects in the book you are reading.	[ ] Read some poetry.



Growing Like a Read

# ACTIVITY LOG

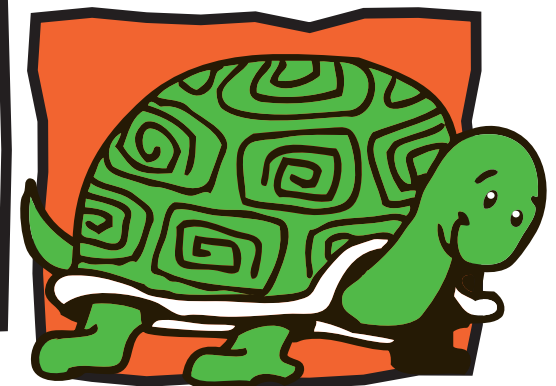
## 25-30 MONTHS

Check off the activities as you do them with your child.

Choosing an activity from each column to complete six across will strengthen pre-reading skills in your child.

Continue until you have filled in the whole chart.

Think up similar activities until your child is developmentally ready for the next activity log.



This Activity Log belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

\*See the Growing Like a Read stand-up book.