

## 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.
- Ask "What's happening in the story?"
- Relate books to child's everyday life.
- Continue to encourage writing and drawing.
- Let child tell the story.
- 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:

- Listens to longer stories.
- Can retell familiar story.
- Understands what text is.
- Pretends to "write" name.
- Moves toward letter recognitions.

### Books for This Age:

- Books about other children.
- Concepts, how things work, going to school or the doctor, siblings.
- Books about making friends, and the challenges of friendship—arguing and making up, sharing, dealing with a bossy friend.
- Books with simple text.

### 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	[ ] Have your child create a book with paper and crayons. Let your child dictate or scribble a story and then color the pictures.	[ ] Make cookies or a snack using a recipe. Point out the parts of a recipe to your child.	[ ] Clap your child's name as you say it. Try other names and words.	[ ] Beat syllables of words as you read rhymes or stories.	[ ] Read an information book about a subject that interests your child, i.e. trains, dinosaurs, dance.	[ ] Cover a cookie sheet with sand or shaving cream, and use fingers to draw letters and numbers. Write your child's name.
ON THE GO	[ ] Play "what would you do if" ex: "you were at the beach and it started to rain?"	[ ] See how many words you and your child can find that rhyme.	[ ] Sing songs together.	[ ] Let your child look at a picture dictionary.	[ ] Play "guess what." Give your child simple clues to guess familiar objects.	[ ] Sing the ABC Song.*
AT THE LIBRARY	[ ] Let your child create a story about going to the library.	[ ] Cuddle and read a book while waiting for story time.	[ ] Attend a story time.	[ ] Explain how the books are organized.	[ ] Read an information book about one of your child's interests.	[ ] Read an opposites (concept) book.
IN THE STORE	[ ] Ask your child to tell you what will happen next as you shop.	[ ] Have your child point out favorite foods or items as you shop.	[ ] Play rhyming games with the items at the store.	[ ] Explain the process of mail. Let your child send a letter to friends or relatives.	[ ] Ask your child to help you shop. "Can you find...."	[ ] Look through magazines or newspapers. Read the comics.
AT BEDTIME	[ ] Tell a bedtime story.	[ ] Read a bedtime story.	[ ] Sing songs or listen to a lullaby CD.	[ ] Ask questions about the action in the pictures before reading the text. Say, "What do you think happens?"	[ ] Ask your child to find familiar letters or objects as you read a book.	[ ] Ask your child to point out letters as you read a bedtime story.



Growing Like a Read

# ACTIVITY LOG

## 31-36 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.