

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.

Mary Ann Boersma, MS, CCPS
Child Development Specialist
Cleveland County
Child Guidance Division



	STORY	BOOKS	SOUNDS	DIRECTION	WORDS	LETTERS
AT HOME	[] Play charades by acting out simple everyday activities.	[] Sing a book like <i>Seals on the Bus</i> or <i>Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly</i> .	[] Listen and sing and dance with your child to your favorite children's music.	[] Have your child march along to the music.	[] Write down a story your child tells or makes up. Let your child "draw" the pictures.	[] Help your child make letters with play-doh.
ON THE GO	[] Talk about the things that you see outside the window. Ask questions like "What does it smell like, feel like or what shape/ color is it?"	[] Let your child "read" a favorite book to you.	[] Listen to music in the car.	[] Look at maps before you travel.	[] Read a book about another country.	[] Help your child pretend write letters or numbers on the window.
AT THE LIBRARY	[] Go to Story Time.	[] Let your child pick out the books to check out.	[] Attend a Rhythm Tykes or other program.	[] Attend a baby crafts or other library program.	[] Let your child listen to a story or play on the computer.	[] Check out a Family Literacy Kit.
IN THE STORE	[] Ask your child to tell you the purpose of the food you buy.	[] Make a grocery / shopping list with your child. Let your child look for foods that match your coupons.	[] Have your child name the things that you buy.	[] Let your child help find the groceries on the list. Let our child look at the shopping flyers for foods you buy.	[] Point out the prices of the things you buy. (Numbers)	[] Have a number treasure hunt, "Let's find number 1," "Let's find number 2," (up to 5). Count the number together on your fingers after finding it on a sign or label.
AT BEDTIME	[] Let your child tell you a favorite story.	[] Read a favorite bedtime story.	[] Whisper a favorite song together.	[] Read nursery rhymes.	[] Sing a lullaby.	[] Read poetry to your child.



Growing Like a Read

ACTIVITY LOG

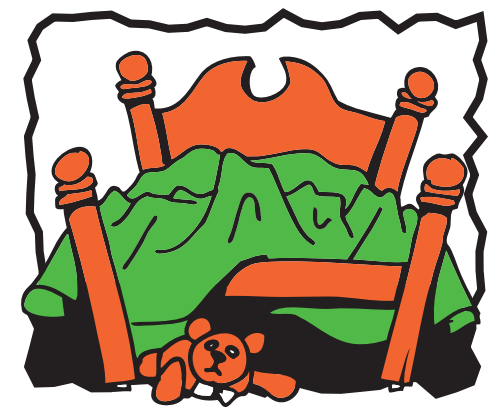
37-42 MONTHS

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.