

Letter Knowledge

Learning Different Shapes & Letters

- Make letters from clay or play with magnetic letters.
- Help your child make her own alphabet book. Use pictures from magazines & help her write the letters.
- Show your child that the same letter can look different.
- Have your child practice writing letters in sand, pudding, shaving cream or cornmeal.
- Read alphabet books. Have your child trace his finger over the letters.
- Help your child practice writing her name.
- Play with puzzles, magnetic or foam letters & sing alphabet songs.

Read books both you & your child will enjoy. Make sure you and your child are in good moods & stop reading when your child loses interest. Read again later in the day.

Print Motivation

Enjoying Books & Loving to Read

- Make reading with your child one of the most enjoyable times of the day; snuggle up & enjoy a book together every day.
- Visit the library often. Let your child pick out her own books. Attend preschool story time.
- Let your child see you enjoy reading.
- Make a special place in your child's bedroom for him to read & play in. Stock it with favorite stuffed animals & books.
- Act out books with voices & puppets.

More early literacy skills:

Print Awareness

Using Books & Seeing Print All Around

- As you read underline words with your finger & point to words important to the story. Important phrases are often repeated.
- Share rebus books where pictures substitute some words, such as Shirley Neitzel's books. Find these in the Children's Library under the call number *E Neitzel*.
- Help kids create their own books. This helps them learn the parts of a book (front, back, illustrations, words, author, etc.). It also helps kids practice writing, which focuses their attention on print & contributes to early reading skills. Homemade books make great gifts for family members or others.
- Point out print all around; this is called environmental print. Have your child do a word hunt while riding in the car. Have him point out all the things that have words on them. See if he recognizes any of the words or letters he finds.



Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library
Children's Library
3 Community Park Road
Broomfield, CO 80020
www.broomfieldlibrary.com
720-887-2315

Preschoolers



Prepare your preschooler to read by helping him or her develop these key skills:

*Learning new words

*Learning different shapes & letters

*Hearing the sounds in words

*Describing events & telling stories

*Using books & seeing print all around

*Enjoying books & loving to read

Help preschoolers develop early literacy skills:

Phonological Awareness Hearing the Sounds in Words

Success Starts Early

Your child loves to be close to you and hear the sound of your voice. A loving relationship develops between you and your preschooler when you share books, sing songs and recite rhymes with him or her. The bond you create with your child through books and music will support his or her learning for a lifetime.



What is Early Literacy?

Children are born ready to learn, and you provide the opportunities for learning through everyday experiences— including talking, reading, singing and playing.

Through these interactions, preschoolers develop a knowledge about reading, writing and learning before they even know how to read or write. This knowledge is called **early literacy**.

There are six early literacy skills you can practice with your child to help her develop language and learning skills: **vocabulary, print motivation, print awareness, letter knowledge, phonological awareness and narrative skills.**

Vocabulary Learning New Words

- Use positive language to speak to your child. Use a variety of specific words to talk about how things work, feelings & ideas.
- Speak in the language most comfortable for you. The more words kids hear in any language, the more comprehension they will have.
- Read together every day. Talk about the pictures & events in the story; ask your child lots of questions about the book.
- Read non-fiction books to learn about the things your child is interested in.
- Visit the zoo or pet store. Have your child name the animals. Provide the names for both the adult & baby animal. Read about the animal's natural habitat.
- Make a list of words your child doesn't know when reading together. Look them up in the dictionary or define them for him. Put the list on the refrigerator so everyone knows to use the new words around your child.

Ask your child s to make predictions about the book you are reading based on the cover & title. Revise the predictions as you gather more information while reading.

- Listen to music. Dance & use instruments.
- Sing throughout the day. This helps kids hear the sounds in words because each syllable usually has a different note.
- Ask if two words rhyme.
- Help kids hear syllables in words. Say words with parts left out: "What word do we have if you took 'hot' away from 'hotdog?'"
- Put two word chunks together to make a word. "What word do you have if you put 'cow' & 'boy' together?" Make this game silly.
- Recite nursery rhymes, read rhyming books & make up silly, nonsense rhymes.



Narrative Skills

Describing Events & Telling Stories

- When reading together, ask your child "what" questions. Point to a picture & say, "What's that?" or "What's happening here."
- Read your child's favorite books over again. Stories help kids understand that things happen in order first, next, last.
- Have your child tell you a story. Write it down & illustrate it together.
- After reading a book together a few times, have your child "read" it to you.
- Ask your child open-ended questions while reading. Like, "What do you think is happening in this picture?"