

## Letter Knowledge

### Learning Different Shapes & Letters

- Read alphabet books. Help your child trace her finger over large letters.
- Talk about things that are alike & different in the books you read. Books with opposite themes are great for this.
- Toddlers learn about letters by learning about shapes. Read shape books, point out shapes of buildings, signs, toys, etc.
- Play with simple puzzles, letter magnets, blocks & make letters out of clay.
- Sing the alphabet song.
- Point out & name letters when reading books, signs, menus, labels, etc.

**Familiarity with printed language helps kids feel comfortable with books & understand that print is useful.**

### Print Motivation

#### Enjoying Books & Loving to Read

- Kids who enjoy books want to learn how to read. Make reading fun by sharing books you like.
- Let your child see you reading.
- Make sure you & your child are in good moods so reading will not be a struggle. Stop reading when your child loses interest.
- Make up funny voices when reading.
- Attend toddler story time at the library.
- Let your child choose his own books.
- Dress up in costumes to read. Act out stories you enjoy.
- Use puppets or stuffed animals when reading.

## More early literacy skills:

### Print Awareness

#### Using Books & Seeing Print All Around

- Point to words in books, especially words that repeat or are in bold print.
- Let your child turn the pages of the book.
- Hold the book upside down. See if your child turns the book around.
- Encourage your toddler to practice writing, even if it only looks like scribbling.
- Let your child hold the book & “read” or tell the story.
- Point out & read aloud everyday print—labels, signs, lists, menus, etc. This is called environmental print, it’s everywhere!
- Read books with large print that is easy to see & point out.
- Read interactive & touch-and-feel books.



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# Toddlers



**Prepare your toddler 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 toddlers develop early literacy skills:

## Phonological Awareness Hearing the Sounds in Words

### Success Starts Early

Your toddler loves to be close to you and hear the sound of your voice. A loving relationship develops between you and your child when you share books, sing songs and recite rhymes with him or her. The bond you create with your toddler 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, toddlers 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. The more words he hears, the more he will learn & later be able to pronounce when reading.
- Talk about the pictures in books.
- Talk about what the characters in a book might be feeling. Relate it to a time your child felt that way too.
- Do not replace unfamiliar words in a book with ones your child already knows. Read the word & explain what it means.
- Share non-fiction books.
- Read books about fruits & vegetables. Go to the grocery store to see if you can find the food you read about.
- Speak in the language most comfortable for you. The more words kids hear in any language, the more comprehension they will have.

**The ability to hear & play with the smaller sounds that make up words helps children sound out words as they begin to read.**

- Clap out the syllables in words: “carr-ot”.
- Read rhyming books, picture books you can sing & poetry books.
- Make up rhyming songs with your child’s name in them.
- Read books with noisy sounds. Make them together: “moo”, “oink”, “beep”, etc.
- Listen to music with actions your child can perform. Move to the music with scarves or ribbons. Add musical instruments to tap out the rhythms you hear.
- Sing throughout the day. This helps kids hear the sounds in words because each syllable usually has a different note.
- Perform the actions in rhymes and songs.



### Narrative Skills

#### Describing Events & Telling Stories

- Share “predictable” books that repeat phrases or patterns. Let your child fill in the repeated part of the story.
- Re-read familiar books. On the next reading, ask your child to “read” it to you.
- Make up stories starring your toddler.
- Talk about what you are doing throughout the day. Explain about what you are going to do first, second & third.
- Ask questions when reading aloud.