

## 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.
- Let your child see you enjoying a book, magazine or newspaper.
- Have a special place for reading materials in your home that your child can reach.
- 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 that tell stories.
- Books about children such as they.

### 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 an information book about a place your child would like to go- fire station, park, swimming pool etc.	[ ] Read the comics to your child.	[ ] Read a poetry book together.	[ ] When reading, have your child point to the things you are reading about.	[ ] Make a family tree out of photos so your child can learn family members.	[ ] Help your child make letter shapes with his body.
ON THE GO	[ ] Read a book about a place you have never gone.	[ ] Listen to music in the car.	[ ] Make rhymes of the places you go.	[ ] Talk about landmarks as you travel. Talk about the directions that you turn: left, right, east, west.	[ ] Go to the zoo and name animals and talk about the sounds they make.	[ ] Let your child make a card and help you mail it.
AT THE LIBRARY	[ ] Cuddle and read a book.	[ ] Let your child pick out the books to check out.	[ ] Attend a story time.	[ ] Play with a puzzle.	[ ] Attend a library festival or other library program.	[ ] Check out a Family Literacy Kit or explore the children's magazines.
IN THE STORE	[ ] Play "I went shopping game." (I went shopping and I bought an apple. Child responds I bought candy and an apple. Continue to add items until you forget the list.)	[ ] Show your child the labels on food and explain why the labels are there.	[ ] Make rhymes of the food you buy.	[ ] Have your child tell you how far or near to you an item in the store is.	[ ] Have your child point out and name different foods.	[ ] Talk about what signs say.
AT BEDTIME	[ ] Tell a story from your childhood or about the day your child was born.	[ ] Let your child chose a book to read.	[ ] Read a rhyming bedtime story.	[ ] Ask your child, "What will happen next?" before you turn the page.	[ ] Read your family tree.	[ ] Cuddle together and say "Good night" to the book, the bed, the best boy or girl in the whole world.



Growing Like a Read

# ACTIVITY LOG

## 43-48 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.