

Prepare Your Child to Read:

Learning to read begins at birth! Early literacy research shows that there are five practices that parents can use to help get their children ready to read. By developing these early literacy skills now, your child will have an easier time learning to read once they begin school.

Talking

For babies and toddlers, their first introduction to literacy is the language they hear their parents speak. This practice is most effective when talking to children using a wide variety of words, talking often, and narrating daily activities. While talking with your child, you are teaching words and what they mean, which helps to develop their vocabulary even before they begin talking.

Singing

Singing breaks down words into smaller units of different sounds. Your child is therefore able to recognize individual sounds that make words. When your child begins to learn to read, they will have a head start in knowing letter sounds. Even if you think you don't have a great singing voice, your child will love your singing just because it's you!

Reading

Reading aloud to your child is often promoted as the "single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading" (1). Reading together helps develop your child's vocabulary and also helps your child begin to learn how print and books work. The practice of shared reading between parent and child, where both child and parent are engaged with the text, not only helps your child begin to learn to read, but also helps to develop a love of reading.

Writing

Encouraging the use of writing instruments to draw or scribble on paper from an early age helps to develop the fine motor skills necessary to learn to write when they begin school. Writing practice also helps children learn that written words are symbols for spoken words.

Playing

Play helps develop higher-learning thinking skills and helps children learn to think symbolically. This helps them understand that spoken and written words stand for concrete experiences. When using their imagination, children also learn to express themselves, put their thoughts into words, and sequence events.