



# Babies & Kids Books, Bits N' Tips

## PARENTS: A CHILD'S FIRST (AND BEST) TEACHER

You have been your child's teacher from the day he or she was born. You know more about your child than anyone else. You are in the best position to help your child get ready to read because:

Young children have short attention spans. You can do activities for short bits of time throughout the day.

You can help your children learn in ways and at times that are best for them.

Parents are tremendous role models—if your children see that you think

reading is important and enjoy it, they will follow your lead.

Children learn best by doing—and they love doing things with YOU.

We are going to talk about five of the best ways to help children learn pre-reading skills and get ready to read. These five practices are easy to do with children of all ages.

They can be done at home, at the doctor's office, in the car, or anywhere you and your child spend time together. The five best ways to help your child get ready to read are:

*Talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing.*

Getting ready to read involves many skills.

Some children learn these skills earlier and more quickly than other children, just like children learn to walk and talk at different ages.

When you use the five practices, you can help your children learn important reading skills, like letter names and sounds, in ways that are appropriate for their ages and interests. Taken from Every Child Ready to Read @ your library



Children learn best by doing—and they love doing things with YOU!

### "Reading Tip"

If English is not your first language, speak and read to your child in the language you know best. This allows you to read and explain things to your child more fluently.

**Lapsit Infants of all ages Saturdays @ 11:00—11:30 AM**

**Call 248-758-3942**



## FUN, EASY TO DO GAMES TO HELP YOUR CHILD GET READY TO READ!

Between two and four years old, most children are ready to learn about the letters of the alphabet, an essential pre-reading skill.

There are simple activities you can do each day to help children learn about letters. Don't push your child. If he or she isn't interested in an activity, stop. Do have fun with these activities every day so your child wants to do them again and again!

"Learning the alphabet" consists of several distinct tasks:

- Learning the names of all 26 letters.
- Learning which names go with which letter shapes, both uppercase and lowercase.
- Learning what sounds each letter represents.

One of the best ways to help your child learn the alphabet is to make it fun! Singing songs like the "Name Song" is a great way to start.

- Sing the "Name Song" to the tune of "Bingo" using your child's name.
- Play "I Spy" to find letters in the room. Silently choose an object that all players can see. Say, "I spy with my little eye something that starts with the letter (pick one)."
- Say "We are going to go to a place to eat that begins with the letter M. Where do you think we are going?"

Let your child guess! Taken from every Child Ready to Read @ your library

**Toddling Into Reading for Ages 1—2 Wednesday 1:00 - 1:30 pm Songs, Fingerplays, Bubbles**

**Call 248-758-3942 to register**

**Ready, Set, Get Ready to Read Ages 3 to 5 Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 pm Crafts Songs Stories Call 248-758-3942 to register**

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"The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book and the person reading. It isn't achieved by the book alone, or by the child alone, or by the adult who's reading aloud -- it's the relationship winding between all three, bringing them together in easy harmony," Mem Fox



## THE FIVE PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE EARLY LITERACY

**Talking:** Talk with and listen to each child; add additional words to continue the conversation. Ask open ended questions. (Ones that can't be answered with a yes or a no).

Combine larger words with a simpler word to develop vocabulary.

Model taking turns with conversation.

**Reading:** Language in books has more complex words, ideas, and sentences.

Books have more rare words than normal conversation. Explain unknown words or let your child guess at the meaning of a word.

Talk about what you read for yourself with your child to help him understand how important reading is to your every day life.

Use alphabet books on topics your child enjoys—food, dinosaurs, plants, sea creatures.

**Singing:** Rhymes and songs have words not used in conversation.

Songs slow down language and separates sounds because different syllables have different notes.

This help children to break words into sounds and syllables when they start to read.

Make up your own silly songs using made up words that use different alphabet sounds.

Songs help children hear the rhythm and rhymes of language.

**Writing:** Encourage children to draw a picture about a book or story. Talk with them about what they drew or wrote. Remember that mark making, then scribbling, are the first two stages of writing!

Encourage children to write their own name on their picture/story, or write the starting letter yourself.

Ask questions and respond to what a child says about what he/she wrote or drew.

Repeat the words and add other words similar to or that describe further what they said or wrote.

Encourage children to write for things they enjoy—invitations, notes, thank you notes or to make a book.

Ask children to label parts of their own drawing, or write down what they say.

**Playing:** Use print as part of play—signs, menus, lists. Encourage pretend/dramatic play to tell and retell stories. Encourage role-playing of different situations.

## Six Early Literacy Skills to Help Your Child Learn to Read

### NARRATIVE SKILLS

Tell stories together.  
Encourage pretend and play.  
Let the child be storyteller.

### LETTER KNOWLEDGE

Help your child identify the  
First letter in his/her name.  
Find it in books and signs.

### PRINT AWARENESS

Help your child discover how to hold a  
book and turn the pages.

### VOCABULARY

Teach your child the specific names  
of things. Try fruits and vegetables  
at mealtimes.

### PRINT MOTIVATION

Find books on topics that interest your  
child and share them often.

### PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Sing songs, play games and share  
rhymes to help your child play with  
the smaller sounds in words.



Getting Ready to Read Starts  
In Infancy—

The skills a child learns BEFORE school

## TRY THIS ACTION GAME!

### Hokey Pokey

You put your right hand in,  
You take your right hand out.  
You put your right hand in,  
And you shake it all about.  
You do the Hokey Pokey,  
And you turn yourself around.  
That's what it's all about.

... left foot  
... nose  
... tail  
... whole self

You can see it demonstrated at:

[http://www.rif.org/kids/leadingtoreading/en/babies-toddlers/finger-plays/hokey\\_pokey.htm](http://www.rif.org/kids/leadingtoreading/en/babies-toddlers/finger-plays/hokey_pokey.htm)