

PROMOTING LITERACY FROM BIRTH TO AGE FIVE

## Six Fun and Effective Strategies for Parents and Caregivers



**Early Literacy is all about** building a foundation for reading, writing, communication, and language. Let's dive into some tips that will help you lay a strong foundation for your little ones.

### 1 Start Early and Make It Fun

Even before your child can speak, reading to them introduces them to a world of words. Choose books with bright colors, engaging illustrations, and simple text. Make reading a special bonding time by snuggling up together with a good book. Use an expressive voice when reading aloud, try character voices, and pause often to ask questions and “think aloud” about the book.

- **Newborns:** Talk, sing, and narrate your day. Use rattles, soft books, and high-contrast toys to stimulate their senses.
- **Babies:** Sing songs, play nursery rhymes, and read board books with vibrant pictures. Let them hold and explore books.
- **Toddlers:** Read a variety of books and encourage pretend play with stuffed animals and dolls. Introduce simple alphabet games and songs.
- **Preschoolers (3-5 years old):** Continue reading aloud regularly, letting them choose some books. Play rhyming games and encourage storytelling through drawing and dramatic play.

### 2 Encourage Interaction

Encourage your child to participate while reading. Ask questions like, “What do you think will happen next?” or “Can you find the cat on this page?” This helps develop their comprehension skills and keeps them actively engaged in the story.

Family  
Literacy  
Toolkit



CHECK IT OUT

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**3 Make Literacy a Part of Daily Life**

Incorporate reading and writing into everyday activities. Point out words on signs while driving or walking. Let your child help make a grocery list by drawing pictures or writing letters.

**4 Foster a Love for Writing**

Provide materials like crayons, markers, and paper to encourage your child to explore writing on their own. Celebrate their efforts and display their creations proudly.

**5 Monitor Screen Time and Prioritize Reading**

While technology can be a valuable tool, it's important to limit screen time for young children. Prioritize activities that promote literacy, such as reading together. Set aside dedicated screen-free times each day for reading and other interactive activities.

**6 Elevate Your Language**

Move beyond everyday language and incorporate more academic language into your conversations. For example, instead of saying, "It's time for bed," you could say, "It's time to eat. I made you a delicious dinner."

**By nurturing a love for reading and language from an early age**, we are setting the foundation for reading success. What are you doing in your homes to engage in literacy activities with your youngest learners? We'd love to hear from you!

