



Grow your Reader

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St. Charles City-County
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5 FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS

Here are some tips & activities to incorporate these skills into your daily routines.

Reading together is the most important thing

READ you can do to develop early literacy skills

- Let your baby hold books and turn pages. Practice will help your child to learn how to handle a book.
- Babies enjoy books with bright pictures, primary colors, and pictures of other babies.
- Use books & story time to help set routines at bedtime, bathtime or naptime.
- If you have trouble getting your child to sit for a story, read while they are playing, running around, or sitting in their high chair.
- Keep books in your diaper bag so you are prepared to read anywhere.
- Keep books within your child's reach and allow your child to choose books to read, even if you read the same story again and again.



WRITE Understanding writing means knowing that written words express ideas and events

- Let your child grab a crayon and scribble on unlined paper.
- Strengthen finger and hand muscles by playing with toys that are squeezed, pushed together, or pulled apart.
- Talk about shapes that you see around the house (clocks, windows, plates, toys, etc.) Play with shapes and blocks. Learning shapes is the first step in learning the letters of the alphabet.
- Point out beginning letters and sounds. When you see the first letter of your baby's name, point it out in books, labels, signs, etc.

TALK Conversations teach a child new words and how to express ideas

- Encourage your baby to imitate sounds. This is the beginning of their communication skills.
- Talk about your plans for the day. "First we are eating breakfast. Then we are....", etc.
- If English is not your native language, talk to your child in the language you know best.
- When looking at pictures of babies, talk about what you see and how you think those babies feel. Sad? Frustrated? Happy? Tired?

SING Singing breaks down words into distinct sounds and syllables

- Sing! Your baby will love hearing your voice.
- Make up songs about changing diapers, cooking dinner, giving a bath, family members, etc. Keep it fun and silly!
- Clap the syllables of your toddler's name and other words.
- Use humming and singing to calm your baby.

PLAY Playing allows children the opportunity to express themselves and their ideas

- Play peek-a-boo to keep your child entertained wherever you are.
- Play pretend! Be a puppy, an airplane, anything!
- Make sure that your baby gets plenty of tummy time while looking at books or toys.
- Play with toys by rolling, dropping, catching, kicking, pushing, & pulling.



PREPARE YOUR CHILD TO BE A SUCCESSFUL READER