

## GETTING READY TO READ

**PRINT MOTIVATION** is a child's interest in and enjoyment of books. Children who enjoy books will be more likely to want to learn how to read. **You help by:** Making book sharing a pleasant experience; letting your child see you read.

**PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS** is the ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words. Rhymes help children hear these sounds. **You help by:** Saying nursery rhymes; reading books that rhyme; singing songs together.

**VOCABULARY** is knowing the names of things. It helps children understand what they read. It also helps children recognize words when they try to sound them out. **You help by:** Talking with your child; repeating words over and over again; explaining words your child does not know.

**NARRATIVE SKILLS** is the ability to describe things and events and to tell stories. Researchers find that when children start to read this skill helps them understand what they are reading. **You help by:** Talking to them about what you are doing as you go about daily tasks; encouraging them to tell you what they are doing; using books to help them learn and tell stories.

**PRINT AWARENESS** is noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, and how to follow the written words on a page. In English, we open a book and turn pages from right to left. We read words from left to right and top to bottom. We are reading the words on the page, not the pictures. **You help by:** Reading books with your child; letting your child turn the page; running your finger under some of the words.

**LETTER KNOWLEDGE** is knowing that letters are different from each other and have different names and sounds. Researchers find that this skill helps children to understand that words are made up of smaller parts. **You help by:** Providing plastic shapes and letters for your child to play with; teaching your child what sounds the letters make.



**Skokie Public Library**  
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3. Babies see things best about 8 to 12 inches from their faces. Show your baby a box from a toy or other colorful box. Tell him what it says as you point to the words that are in large type. Read with your baby everyday.

### LETTER KNOWLEDGE ACTIVITIES

1. Letters are made from shapes. Draw shapes in bright colors or cut out shapes from brightly colored paper. Show your baby the shapes and say their names. When you play with a ball with your baby, let Baby feel the ball. Say, "the ball is round."
2. Young children learn best through their senses. As you play with your baby or toddler, make a shape or a letter on his back or palm and say what it is. Do the same thing as you tickle his tummy.
3. Babies love looking at faces. They focus on faces longer than on any other image! Find pictures of the family. Glue them to construction paper or cardboard. Cover them with contact paper. Attach them to the side of the crib or put them on the wall where Baby can see them. Talk about each person as you point to them.

# Curious? Read!

## Early Literacy Activities

### Birth - 23 Months



### PRINT MOTIVATION ACTIVITIES

1. Babies love to chew books. It's only natural! Putting things in their mouths is one way they explore. Choose books for baby that are sturdy, made of cardboard, cloth, or plastic for the bath. As you gently pull a book from the baby's mouth, show her the pictures. Find a book your baby will enjoy and talk about the pictures.

2. Let your child see you reading. Show her some pictures too. When you read a newspaper or magazine, read parts of it out loud to your baby. Look up and smile as you read aloud.

3. Share books with your baby when you both can enjoy the time together. Pick a time when your baby is quietly alert, when she is calm enough to enjoy looking at a book, but not too tired. Find a comfortable position for you and your baby, and read together. If she tries to grab the book, that is all right. Let her explore!

### PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

1. Play Pat-a-Cake with your baby. Put his name in instead of Baby:

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man

Bake me a cake as fast as you can.

Roll it and pat it and mark it with B

And put it in the oven for Baby and me.

Ask a Librarian to help you find a book of other nursery rhymes.

2. Use your child's name to make a rhyme. The rhyming word does not have to make sense. For example:

Your name is Jerry

And it rhymes with berry!

Your name is Jessica.

And it rhymes with lessica!

You can make up many more.

3. Sing songs with your baby. Use the language that is most natural for you. Even from birth your baby is learning the sounds of language. There are all kinds of songs for different situations: waking up, learning parts of the body, finding comfort, and lullabies for bedtime. The Library has a variety of CDs and tapes for young children. Choose one and learn a new song. Ask the Librarian to help you.

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

1. Your baby learns words by hearing them. Babbling is the first step of talking. When you name parts of the body, be both specific and general. For example, "This is your hand. You have two hands." You can also talk about your baby's fingers and the names of each one, all on Baby's hand! As you talk with your baby throughout the day, think of new words to add to what you already say.

2. Think about something that interests your child. Trucks? Shapes? Colors? Toys? Pets? Ask the librarian to help you find a book your child will enjoy. Share it together, naming and talking about the different items in the pictures.

3. Language spoken directly to a child is most effective in building strong language skills. Play and talk with your child. While your child is playing, describe what he is doing, "You're pushing the car up the ramp."

**Enjoy your time together.  
If it's not a pleasant  
experience, try another time.**

### NARRATIVE SKILLS ACTIVITIES

1. Young children like books with clear pictures about things they see and do. Many toddlers cannot sit still for a long time. Catch a few minutes throughout the day to read some, if not all, of a book. Talk about something you did together that is related to the picture in the book. Even though you may not understand everything your toddler says, give him time to talk. Get a book you have not read yet. Talk about a picture and your child's experience.

2. Talking to your baby is the best way to develop language. When talking, allow time for your baby to respond. If he turns away from you, he has had enough for now. As you go through your day, look at your baby and tell her what you are doing.

3. As you are talking to your baby, add some details. For example, "Here's your sweater." You can add, "Your yellow sweater with green stripes. It will keep you warm when we take a walk." Add some details as you talk with your baby throughout the day.

### PRINT AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

1. Show your child that you can find words everywhere. As you feed your baby or toddler, read the labels on food boxes or jars. Point to the words and the pictures. "This says, 'Cheerios,' and here they are!"

2. Have some books in your child's toy box or on his toy shelf. Let your child turn the pages when you read a book together. Don't worry which direction he turns them. Say, "You turned the page! Very good!"

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