

**Early Literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read or write.**

**It lays the foundation for later learning to read.**

**Below are the six early literacy skills that researchers say are important for children to learn to read.**

**The activities you do with your children, over and over again, help build their skills while you enjoy time together.**

**Print Motivation:** child's interest in and enjoyment of books and reading

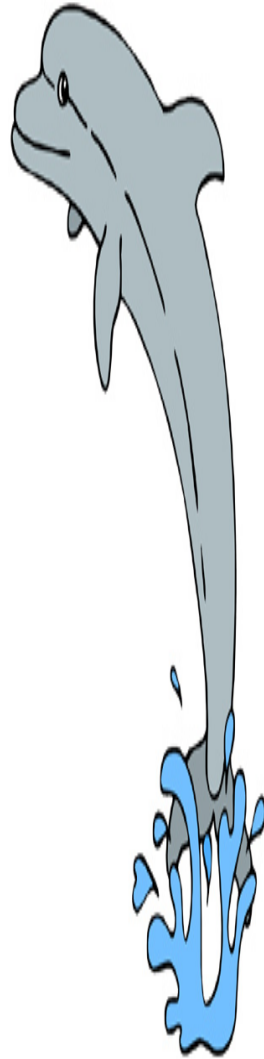
- Read in a cheerful voice
- Talk about the pictures in the books allowing time for your child to participate. This helps keep them engaged.
- Let your child see you reading a book or magazine. Children who see their parents/caregivers reading are more likely to read themselves.
- Put the book down if your child loses interest.
- Enjoy your booksharing time together.

**Phonological Awareness:** ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words

- Sing to your child
- Say nursery rhymes
- Read rhyming books
- Saying and encouraging your child to say the sounds of animals
- Look at a book with pictures of animals. Say the sounds the animals make and let your child imitate you.
- Shake a rattle to the rhythm of music/song
- Clap your baby's hands or have your toddler clap with you in rhythm to music/song.

**Vocabulary:** knowing the names of things, feelings, concepts, ideas

- Tell your child a story
- Say nursery rhymes
- In the bathtub, talk about sinking and floating
- Talk with your child as you shop. Add new words.
- Play with blocks and talk about what you/your child are building
- Play with puzzles and talk about the pictures
- Tell your child a story.
- Talk with your child about how food tastes—salty, sweet, smooth, delicious, stale, sour, etc.
- Talk about how your child feels as she takes a bath.



**Narrative Skills:** expressive language, describe things, events, tell/re-tell stories

- In the bathtub, talk about sinking and floating. Encourage your child to talk back to you.
- Talk with your child as you shop. Encourage your child to talk back to you.
- As you read a book with your child, ask What questions. Point and say "What's this?" Wait for him to respond. You can answer and have your child repeat what you say.
- Even if you cannot understand what your child is saying, it is important for him to talk with you.
- While looking at a book together, let your child tell you a story.

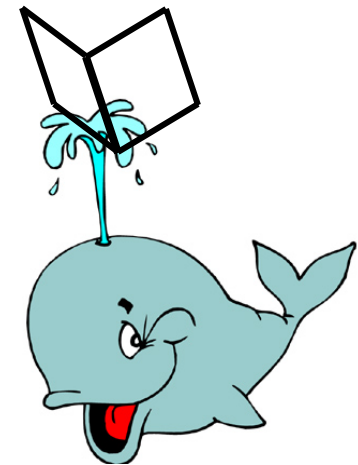
**Print Awareness:** print has meaning, print is all around, how to handle a book, following text on page

- Read a board book, let your child turn the pages
- Show your child a STOP sign near your home.
- Talk about the signs you see all around.
- Point to the words as you read a food box or can
- Encourage your child to scribble or draw.
- While looking at a book together, let your child tell you a story and turn the pages.

**Letter Knowledge:** letters are different from each other, have names and are related to sounds

- Play with blocks and talk about shapes
- Help your toddler put pieces in simple puzzles
- Describe the colors and shapes of your child's toys

***Splish  
Splash  
Spout  
It Out  
for Reading***



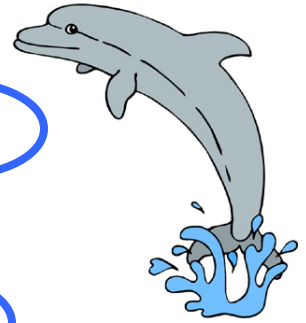
***Summer Reading  
Program for you and  
your youngest children:  
newborn to age two***

START

Sing to your child.

Read a board book.

Play Peek-a-Boo



Tell your child a story.



Say a nursery rhyme 5 times.  
*It's Raining, It's Pouring*  
Ask for activity card.

Put a book in the diaper bag and read it together.

Sing a lullaby to your child.

Play with blocks and talk about shapes.

Talk with your child as you shop.

In the bathtub, talk about floating and sinking.



Pick up your prize.

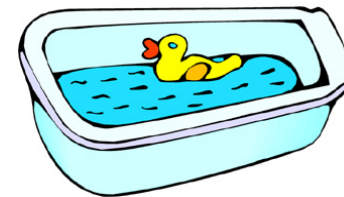
Talk about the pictures in a book with your child.

Point to the words as you read a food box or can

Name child's body parts and talk about what they do.

Clap in rhythm to music/song.

Describe the colors and shapes of your child's toys.



Talk about how your child is feeling as she takes a bath.

As you play with puzzles talk about the picture pieces.

While you look at a book together, let your child tell you a story

Show your child a STOP sign near your home.



As you read a book with your child, ask What questions.

Let your child see you reading a book or magazine.

Talk with your child about how food tastes.

Shake a rattle to the rhythm of music/song.

Talk about the signs you see in the store.



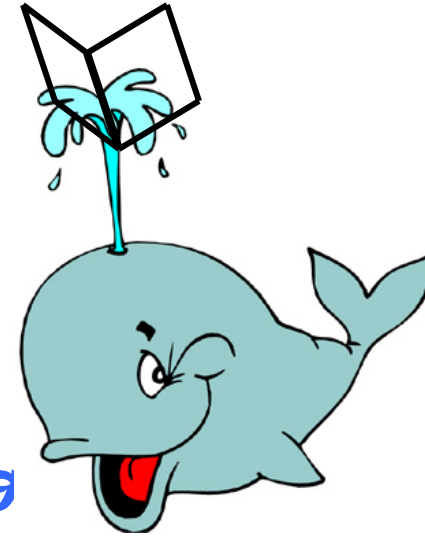
When looking at a book of animals, say the sounds the animals make.

Read a book with your child.

Play with simple puzzles.

Check off the activities as you do them.  
Come into the library for a prize.

# Splish Splash Spout It Out for Reading



Pick up your final prize.

Pick up your prize.

Have your toddler scribble or draw.

Say the rhyme *Jack and Jill*. Ask for activity cheat

Pick up your prize.

