

Early Literacy Tips

It is never too early to start building your child's literacy skills; reading books to your child is just the beginning! To encourage letter and sound recognition, speech development, and comprehension, try incorporating some of the suggestions below:



- Attend a library storytime, virtually or in person when possible.
- Keep books throughout your home, in the car, and in your diaper bag. This allows for easy access and helps develop a positive association with reading.
 - Read several times throughout the day, even if just for a few minutes.
 - Board Books are one of the hardiest types of books to keep on hand when travelling.
- Sing songs. Singing helps children hear the smallest sounds in words; later on this will help them decipher words.
- Talk about the pictures in the book. Let your child try to guess what will happen in the story by looking at the pictures.
 - Point out colors, shapes, animals, and facial expressions. This will help build their vocabulary.
 - Try a wordless picture book.
- Talk to your child, descriptively. When interacting with your child, describe what you or they are doing. Add sounds to actions. Use descriptive words to help them build a mental picture.
- When out in public with your child, point out the words on street signs, businesses, and banners.
 - Explain the word's meaning and then try to come up with words that rhyme with them.
- Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading. For those short on time, reading recipes, the mail, newspapers, or magazines in front of your child counts too!
- Tell stories with puppets or dolls.
 - Encourage your child to pretend and write down some of the stories they tell you.
- For more tips and activities, visit: <https://www.cityoforange.org/2006/Learning-Activities>