



## Developing Early Childhood Literacy Skills



Just because your child is not learning to read yet, does not mean that it is too early to start laying the foundations for this all important step. Reading, writing and oral language abilities actually all develop together, beginning from the moment of birth and evolving gradually over time.

Probably the most important thing you can do to develop early childhood literacy skills is to read aloud to your child. Pick up a book and read it aloud to your child on a daily basis. The benefits of such a simple activity are endless.

There are also other simple and meaningful early childhood literacy activities which you can do with your child to help put them on the path to becoming a successful reader. Please find some helpful suggestions below:

- Expose your child to many different types of preschool literacy experiences such as conversation, word play, stories, books, writing materials, road signs, shopping lists etc.
- Let your child see you read every day - whether it is a newspaper, a recipe book or a magazine. This will show her the value and enjoyment of reading and she will begin to learn why, what and how people read.
- Tell and draw stories for your child.
- Encourage your child to write or draw.
- Go to the library. Let your child pick out their own books.
- Take turns describing pictures in books. Try pretending to make a mistake. Children love correcting their parents!

As parents and caregivers, we have a primary role to play in helping our children prepare to read. We have the ability to ensure that we offer a supportive environment for children to learn and create which lays the foundation for success. The above recommendations are not exhaustive or all inconclusive...there are many activities and games that are as simple as singing our ABC's or playing with letter magnets on the "fridge"!

Local Library information:

<http://www.brevardcounty.us/PublicLibraries/Home>

<http://www.brevardcounty.us/PublicLibraries/KidPlanet>