



BUILDING EARLY READING SKILLS

Building early language and reading skills in young children is important to help them prepare for success in school. Talking and reading to your child—starting at birth—will build reading, writing, and talking abilities. If your child is a strong reader, it will be easier to understand words in other school subjects, like math and science.

Did You Know?

There are natural opportunities to support your young scholar's learning:

- Meal time: Ask your child to tell you what he/she wants to eat or to tell you something good about his/her day.
- Getting dressed: Have your child tell you what he/she is putting on, and encourage him/her to say colors.
- When you are writing: Try to write down words your child says. When your child watches you write, he/she learns a lot about how written language works.

Easy Steps Parents Can Take

- Play games with your child that use rhyming words or focus on the beginning sounds.
- Talk with your child about letter names and letter sounds like, "That's an L, and L sounds like...."
- Play games that include recognizing shapes and letters. Search for certain letters on signs or on grocery store items.
- Sing songs, read nursery rhymes, or play hand-clap games like Mary Mac.

C Use descriptive comments when reading to your child.

A Ask open-ended questions to help your child think of what comes next.

R Respond to your child with praise.

E Expand on what your child says.