

Getting Your Children *Ready to Read*

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

The building blocks of early literacy

Print Motivation

- A child's interest in and enjoyment of books.
- Children who enjoy books and reading will read more. Children become good readers by practicing.

Phonological Awareness

- The ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.
- Helps children sound out words when they begin to read.

Vocabulary

- Knowing the names of things.
- Helps children understand what they read.
- Helps children recognize words when they begin to sound them out.

Narrative Skills

- The ability to describe things and events, and to tell stories.
- Helps children understand what they read.

Letter Knowledge

- Knowing that letters are different from each other and that they have different names and sounds.
- Helps children understand that words are made of smaller parts and to know the names of those parts.

Print Awareness

- Noticing print everywhere.
- Knowing how we follow words on the page, knowing how to handle a book.
- Helps children feel comfortable with a book so they can concentrate on reading.

Adapted from posters used in *Every Child Ready to Read @your library* parent/caregiver workshops.