

FIVE EASY WAYS

To help your child develop literacy skills

Talk, Sing, Read, Write, Play

TALK

- » Have two way conversations with your children - children learn language by listening.
- » Respond to what they say and add words to stretch their vocabulary.
- » Talk while you prepare meals, do chores, get ready for bed, and while in the car.
- » Speak slowly to young children and enunciate - this helps their brains identify sounds.
- » Repeat words to strengthen the brain pathways used for language.
- » Speak face-to-face when talking to infants - they can match shapes to sounds.
- » Don't talk baby talk - the more complex sentences a child hears the more complex sentences they'll be able to speak
- » Limit television time.



SING

- » Sing the alphabet song so the child learns the letters
- » Sing nursery rhymes so children hear the different sounds in words.
- » Clap along to the rhythm so children hear the syllables.

READ

- » Reading together increases vocabulary and is the most important way to help children get ready to read. It increases vocabulary and general knowledge and it helps children understand how print works and how books are put together. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to enjoy reading themselves.

- » Read every day.
- » Make reading interactive. Look at the cover and try to guess what the book is about before you begin. Ask the child questions as you read and listen to the answers.
- » Use books to teach new words. As you read, talk about what these words mean.
- » Have books within easy reach or in a special spot in the house.

WRITE

- » Encourage scribbling by providing many opportunities to write and draw. Keep crayons and paper on a table where children can return again and again.

- » Get magnetic letters for the refrigerator or make letters from cardboard for the children to play with.
- » Have them sign their drawings to develop hand-eye coordination and build up their writing muscles. Children also begin to understand that writing represents words.
- » Talk about what they draw. Have them make up stories or write captions for their drawings so they make the connection between written and spoken language.

PLAY

- » Play helps children think symbolically so give them plenty of unstructured playtimes.
- » Encourage dramatic play with puppets or stuffed animals. Making up stories this way develops narrative skills so children understand that stories have a beginning, middle and



ENCOURAGE CREATIVE PLAY

- end.
- » Have the child tell you a story based on the pictures in a book many times This develops vocabulary.