

What is Early Literacy Development?

Ready for
Pre-K!

- Exploring books
- Language and vocabulary development
- Playing with sounds, rhymes, and alliteration
- Retelling stories
- Making personal connections to books and print



Why is it important?

Literacy development starts in infancy. Children use their whole bodies to develop the skills needed to become strong leaders! Children need visual skills, auditory skills, language skills, hands on experience, and a connection to--and enjoyment of--books and learning! These skills lay the foundation for traditional reading and writing.

What can you do to help?

Children are motivated to do things they enjoy, and by spending time with you! Read books, sing songs, and make messages about things that interest your child. Enjoy cuddling up together with a good book before bedtime or singing a silly song in the car! Early literacy practices can be incorporated into the things you do each day. Check out the DC Public Library's resources for children and families such as S.T.A.R and Books from Birth!

Visit our Website



Tips for Supporting Early Literacy Skills



Print Awareness

Point out words and letters in books, on signs, and on labels. Help your child practice finding their own name. Draw and write messages with your child. Share these messages with loved ones!

Language Development

Talk, play, and read with your child. Use big words and expand on what your child says. Speak to your child in your home language or the language you are most comfortable using.



Visual Skills

Practice matching and sorting items by color, shape, and size. Notice small details and differences. This skill helps children learn to recognize and distinguish letters.

Auditory Skills

Sing silly songs! Recite nursery rhymes or poems. Draw attention to rhyme (words that sound the same at the end), alliteration (words that start with the same sound), and syllables (parts of a word like di-no-saur). Notice sounds in the environment.



Hands On Learning

Encourage play, exploration, and experimentation. Let children use all their senses when playing. Children learn best by feeling, doing, making, and creating!

 DCPS Early Childhood Education

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 readyforprek.org

