

TOP 10 TIPS FOR EARLY LITERACY



1. **TALK AND SING WITH YOUR CHILD:** Infants learn to talk by hearing individuals talk to them. Communicate with your child through lullabies and nursery rhymes, stories, smiles, and even infant coos and babbles.
2. **READ TO YOUR CHILD DAILY:** The one-to-one interaction during daily reading time provides a feeling of safety, comfort, and consistency for young children. Reading a variety of materials to a child increases her vocabulary, her listening and speaking skills, and her understanding of the world.
3. **PROVIDE MATERIALS THAT PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR WRITING:** By holding simple toys such as rattles, or merely scribbling on paper with crayons, babies begin to develop the hand and finger muscles that they need for writing.
4. **LIMIT TELEVISION AND WATCH APPROPRIATE SHOWS WITH YOUR CHILD:** As a parent, take control of the TV. Find appropriate programs to watch with your child so that she may ask a question or discuss the program with you.
5. **PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY AND EXPLORATION:** A child learns about his world through play. Provide toys and materials that encourage exploration and experimentation; participate in the fun by playing imaginative games. Use blocks or colored items to create patterns.
6. **SERVE AS A ROLE MODEL BY DEMONSTRATING YOUR LOVE OF READING:** spend quiet time in which your child observes you reading.
7. **VISIT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND BOOKSTORE TO SPARK YOUR CHILD'S INTEREST IN BOOKS:** Libraries provide excellent children's literature, often sell used books that are inexpensive and in good condition, and arrange special events when authors or storybook characters are a part of the program.
8. **SELECT A QUALITY CHILDCARE PROVIDER WHO WILL SPEND TIME TALKING AND READING TO YOUR CHILD:** When selecting a childcare provider, consider the activities, books and other materials that are provided for your child throughout the day. Visit the center ahead of time and observe the children.
9. **INSTILL A LIFE-LONG LOVE OF READING IN CHILDREN BY MAKING LITERACY LEARNING ENJOYABLE:** Foster your child's literacy growth through everyday activities, and make it fun. But do not become frustrated if your child is sometimes uninterested, skips pages, or insists on reading one book or even one page over and over. Children learn best when it is at their own pace.
10. **GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEALTHY START:** Because the lack of prenatal care can hurt a child's ability to learn to read and write, expectant mothers must be sure to receive adequate health care during pregnancy. After your child is born, get information about children's health and nutrition issues. And of course, make sure your child receives her immunizations.