




Talking with your child can help her be ready to read!

Talking with your child can help him or her develop pre-reading skills, such as learning new words, hearing the smaller sounds that make up words (like rhyming), and learning about letters.

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Reading to your child is the single most effective thing that you can do to help him be ready to read!

Reading together helps your child develop six essential pre-reading skills, such as loving books and understanding how to use one, learning new words, identifying letters and sounds, and hearing the smaller parts of words.

3



Singing together can help your child be ready to read!

Singing naturally breaks down language, making the smaller parts of words, or *phonemes*, easier to hear. Singing songs or reciting nursery rhymes helps children be able to hear rhyming words, which helps later on when they are learning to read.

5



Playing with your child can help her be ready to read!

Playtime with your child is never a waste of time! Imaginative play helps a child learn to think symbolically. What does that mean? Basically, it means that he or she will be able to understand that the squiggles on a page are symbols for sounds and that printed letters have meaning.

Play is also the primary way that children learn about the world and is key to vocabulary development.

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Sing or recite nursery rhymes. You don't need to have a good singing voice! You can find nursery rhyme books and CDs at the library or download them from TumbleBooks or hoopla digital. (ALL)

Make up silly songs about your day. (P)

When saying new words, clap out each syllable. (T)

Check out books with a rhyming text. (T, P)

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Imaginative play is the primary way children learn about the world. Toys don't have to be expensive. Cardboard boxes, dolls, stuffed animals, and old clothes are all good props for unstructured playtime. (ALL)

Playing with your child helps him or her develop new vocabulary. (T, P)

Playtime with babies is anytime that they are happy.

Non-breakable mirrors are a great toy for older babies. (B)

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Research shows that children with larger vocabularies are more ready to read. The best way to introduce new words to your child is to talk!

Talk to your baby during diaper changes, when feeding, during playtime, anytime! Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. (B)

Use any opportunity to talk with your child and teach him or her the correct names of things in the world around you, such as learning the names of different kinds of trees when you take a walk. (T)

Ask lots of questions and you'll be sure to get some interesting answers! They love to hear stories about themselves, so make up stories about your day. (P)

2

Bedtime isn't the only time to read together! Pick the time of day when you know your child is happiest and will be most attentive.

Make sure to have books in a basket or bin nearby a favorite chair. Choose whatever books that your child likes best. (ALL)

Even reading the same book over and over will help him develop early literacy skills. (B,T)

When you visit the library, allow your child to pick the book that he or she wants to read. Reading a nonfiction book will introduce new vocabulary words to your child. (T, P)

4

Writing can help your child be ready to read!

Reading and writing go hand-in-hand. Children will learn to identify letters and the sounds they make much more quickly by learning to write the letters. Even drawing and scribbling can help with being ready for reading.



9

Dialogic reading will ensure your child is ready to read!

Reading together should never just be about reading the words on the page. It should be a conversation between you and your child.



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Get Ready to Read @ Home!

Tips for Parents and Caregivers



Muskingum County Library System
www.muskingumlibrary.org

We're here to help!

Attend a storytime at the library.

Get a library card for your child.

Borrow a Wonderbook from any MCLS location.

Register your child for the "Dolly Parton Imagination Library" to receive a book by mail each month through age 5 (at no cost to you).

Call the Dial-a-Story and listen to a story together at 740.518.8518. New stories are added each week.

Register for the Summer Reading Program and/or the "1,000 Books before Kindergarten" reading challenge.

Questions? Contact the Youth Services Department:
740.453.0391, ext. 115
youthservices@muskingumlibrary.org

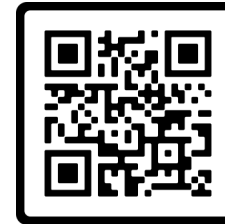
Early literacy is what children know about reading *before* they are ready to read. There are six essential early literacy skills:

1. *Print motivation*, or loving books and reading,
2. *Vocabulary*, or learning new words and the correct words for things,
3. *Letter knowledge*, or being able to identify letters and the sounds they make,
4. *Phonological awareness*, or being able to identify the smaller parts of words, such as rhymes,
5. *Narrative skills*, or understanding that a story has a beginning, middle, and end, and being able to retell a story,
6. *Print awareness*, or understanding that printed words have meaning and how to use a book.

You are your child's first teacher and know him or her best! Use this code for ages: (B) Baby, (T) Toddler, (P) Preschool

Visit us online at muskingumlibrary.org and click on the "Youth Services" tab to see what we have to offer.

Find more fun ready-to-read resources and activities by scanning the QR code or visiting this link:



<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1L1GDaJ-HRx-uOKxukrIDAXPRhB6V2pqw?usp=sharing>

Make sure you have plenty of paper and crayons for writing and scribbling. (T, P)

Ask family and friends to write a letter to your child and help him write back, even if it just means drawing pictures. (P)

Scribbling is the beginning of writing. It helps children develop hand-eye coordination and to strengthen the muscles needed for holding a pen or pencil. (T)

When reading together, point out the parts of the book and demonstrate how to turn the pages. (B, T)

Ask open-ended questions, like, "What do you think will happen next?". (T, P)

Relate the experiences of the characters in the book to your child's own experiences. (P)

Remember, reading printed words is basically like cracking a code—when you read aloud, you do the code-cracking and your child can concentrate on listening for meaning.

Note to Adults Using this Guide:

1. Print out double-sided and choose “Print on Long Edge” so that the pages are numbered correctly.
2. Cut apart on the lines.
3. Punch a hole through the upper left hand corners of the cover and pages 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and the final page (“We’re here to help...)
4. Use a loose-leaf paper ring or a key ring to make a handy reference booklet.

The practices and skills in this booklet are based on a national initiative called “Every Child Ready to Read @ your library”, spearheaded by the Public Library Association (PLA) and the Association of Library Services for Children (ALSC). For more information, contact the Youth Services Department at 740.453.0391, ext. 115, or visit everychildreadytoread.org.