

# Pre-literacy skills



## Strategies for improving early childhood literacy

Improving pre-literacy skills is easy, fun, and free! One of the most important goals is to make reading fun. Find books that your child is interested in. Your local library is a great resource for finding books on many different topics.

- **Read to your child.** If your child loves the book and wants to hear it again and again (and again!), keep reading it! Repetition is great for learning.
- **Read using voice inflections.** Change your intonation, emphasize different words, use different voices
- **Run your finger under each word.**
  - This shows how we read from left to right and top to bottom.



- **Frequently talk to your child.** Narrate what you are doing or what you are seeing, when taking walks, driving, cooking dinner, etc.
  - This helps increase your child's vocabulary.
- **Read ABC books.** Talk about and draw letters. Look for letters on signs when you are walking or riding in the car.
- **Sing songs**
- **Practice rhyming.** When walking, riding in the car, or sitting around the dinner table, say a word and take turns coming up with words that rhyme.
  - This helps with phonological awareness and understanding how words are made up of different sounds and parts.
- **Practice story telling.** Take turns adding pieces to the story or retell things you did together that day. If you make up a story, make it silly and entertaining.
  - This helps with narration skills and comprehension.
- **Pick a sound and talk about it.** Come up with as many words as you can that begin with that sound. If this is challenging for your child, gather a few objects that begin with that sound and one object that doesn't. Go through the objects by saying the name, emphasizing the first sound. Then put the objects into two piles, items that begin with the same sound and items that do not.

These are just a few ways to increase literacy skills. If you have any questions or want additional ideas, email me ([megan@novaspeechandlanguage.com](mailto:megan@novaspeechandlanguage.com)). Again, the most important thing to remember is to try to have fun fostering a love for reading, using imagination, and storytelling.