

Below are some websites AND non-screen activities to do with your child to build literacy, vocabulary, speech, and language skills. There are so many great online resources that are free right now. I only included ones I have reviewed or personally use. If you feel overwhelmed with the number of websites available, skip this section and go straight to the list of non-screen activities.

**Websites:**

- Scholastic is providing three hours a day of free online learning - <http://teacher.scholastic.com/education/>
- Timeforkids.com
- Brainpop.com
- Pbslearningmedia.org
- <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/> The Smithsonian Zoo has webcams on several animals and has some fun information in general.
- Gonoodle.com – This website is great for getting your child moving. They have to follow directions, dance, move around, and have fun. I highly recommend it for brain breaks, if they have been sitting for too long, rainy days, whenever!

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**Activities that do not involve screens:**

- Tic tac toe, checkers, chess
- Categories-pick a category and see how many items you can name in that category
- I spy-use descriptive words to give clues (big, small, color, shape, function, etc.)
- Games like Scattergories, hedbanz, Scrabble
- Play cooperative games (you win or lose together) such as Race To The Treasure, Hoot Owl Hoot, Out Foxed
- Word searches (create one or use google if you don't have a word search book). You can pick a theme or category and have your child help you choose words for the word search. For example, the theme is "Easter" and words for the search are "eggs, chocolate, basket, bunny, etc."
- Word scramble-pick a word or phrase and see how many words you can create using the letters from the word or phrase. For example, using the words "spring break", you can make words such as "ring, rings, rake, king, pin", etc. Talk about strategies such as looking for rhyming words, adding an 's' to make the word plural, etc.
- READ!!! If your child can read, have them read a level appropriate book to you. A rule of thumb for finding the right level or a "just right book" is to have them read two pages to you. If they don't know five or more words on those two pages, then the book is too difficult. Instead, read that book to them if they are interested in it.

- Start reading a chapter book together. This is something you can continue reading every day. Having your child read level appropriate books and reading them books that are above their level are both important.
- When reading ask questions about the book. Ask “who, what, where, when” questions. Discuss the pictures. Talk about vocabulary words they might not know. Have them summarize the story afterwards using the pictures. Have them draw a picture of their favorite part of the story or have them draw something from the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- Read for fun! The above suggestions are great and you should use those activities with one or two books every day, but then just read a book for fun. Don’t stop to ask questions or discuss everything.
- Have a scavenger hunt-create one or find one online.
- Pick a letter and have your child find five objects that begin with that letter. If that is too easy, have them find five objects with that sound in the middle or the end of the word.
- Practice counting-count how many flowers you have in the yard, how many stuffed animals they have, etc.
- Bake something simple-have your child follow the directions. Sequence the steps by talking about what you did first, second, next, last.
- Use imaginary play-castles, dolls, tea parties, dinosaurs, race cars, monster trucks, etc.-create dialogue, create a problem and ask “what should they do?”
- Create schedules. Use a “first/then” picture schedule to encourage your child to complete work. For example, first read a book together and then have 10 minutes of unstructured play or Gonoodle.
- Keep a daily journal/diary. For younger kids that might mean drawing a picture of something fun they did that day and telling you about the picture. It might mean writing one or two words or writing two or three sentences.
- Remember that downtime or quiet time is essential. Many classrooms have about 20 minutes of quiet time after recess. This is a time to regroup-lights are usually off, no talking or whispering only, maybe music (classical or something relaxing) is playing softly, and kids are quietly reading or drawing.

Most importantly, try to have fun! These activities are just suggestions. Create boundaries, but be flexible. If your child wants to do the activity a little differently than how you had planned, let them.

Good luck! Let me know how it goes or if you have questions about any of the activities.