

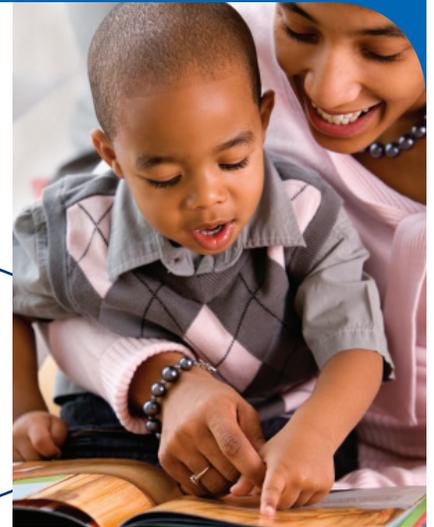
EVERY CHILD READY TO READ

Pre-reading skills children can start learning from birth



Print Motivation

Being interested in and enjoying books.



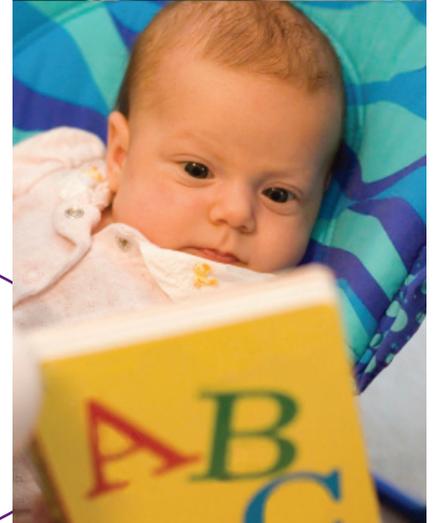
Background Knowledge

Learning information about a variety of topics.



Vocabulary

Naming things and understanding feelings and concepts.



Letter Knowledge

Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds and recognizing letters everywhere.



Phonological Awareness

Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.



Print Awareness

Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and how to follow the words on a page.

WHAT YOU DO HELPS CHILDREN GET READY TO READ

How Can You Help Children Become Good Readers in School?

Parents and child care providers can help young children learn skills that will help them go to school prepared to read and write.

Learn New Words – Vocabulary

- Read aloud fiction and non-fiction books to help children learn new words and concepts.
- Talk to children about feelings and ideas.
- When children babble or talk, listen carefully and answer.

Children who know many words are better readers.

Love of Books and Reading – Print Motivation

- Nurture children's interest in books by reading stories they want to hear.
- Model the fun of reading and playing with language.
- Read a variety of books – visit the public library often.

Children who enjoy being read to will want to learn how to read.

Use Books – Print Awareness

- When reading a book, point to some of the words as you say them. Let children help you say words that repeat.
- Print is everywhere – signs, menus, labels. Point to these words and read them to children.
- Hold a book upside down and help children understand the correct way to hold and read a book.

Knowing how to use books helps children feel comfortable with them and understand that print is useful.

If you would like more information about early literacy or a list of books appropriate for young children, visit the branch in your neighborhood or go to the Fairfax County Public Library's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Learn New Information – Background Knowledge

- Ask open-ended questions that begin with *what*, *why*, *how* or *who*.
- Talk to children about new ideas and listen when they talk to you.
- Read non-fiction books about a variety of subjects.

When learning to read, children need to use what they already know about a subject to understand what they are reading.

Hear and Make Sounds – Phonological Awareness

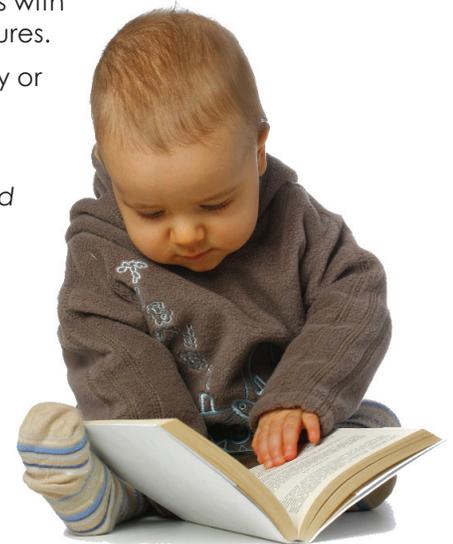
- Read books with rhyming words.
- Sing songs.
- Read Mother Goose rhymes and make up your own silly rhymes.

Being able to hear the sounds that make up words helps children sound out words as they begin to read.

See and Know ABCs – Letter Knowledge

- Read alphabet books with clear letters and pictures.
- Make letters from clay or use magnetic letters.
- Sing alphabet songs.

Knowing the names and sounds of letters helps children figure out how to sound out words.



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