

## Comprehension

Comprehension is the ability to understand and gain meaning from text. By reading aloud to children, you build their vocabulary and comprehension.

After reading, help your child retell the story using the pictures for support. Ask:

- "What is this story about?"
- "Who are the characters in this story?"
- "What happened first? Second? Next?"
- "What was the problem?"
- "How did the story end?"



"Children are  
made readers  
on the laps  
of their  
parents."

-Emilie Buchwald



## Writing

Children are never too young to see themselves as authors. Preschool children draw pictures to tell their stories. They will use some letter-like forms, letters, or temporary spellings to create text.

Help your child add writing to his or her drawings or books.

- Say, "Remember the books we read together have pictures and words. Do you think you could add some writing to this picture/page?"
- Make a line for each word your child plans to write.
- Remind your child to listen for sounds in the words. Point to letters on an alphabet chart or in an alphabet book to help him or her with letter-sound associations and letter formations.
- Whatever your child writes should be treated as a success! For example, your child may scribble, write random letters, or write letters that represent key sounds in words.



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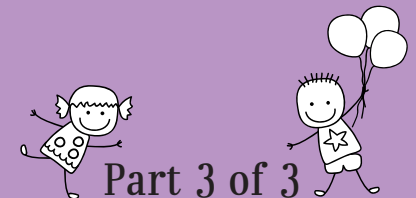
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JAN 2020



## Reading and Writing Activities for Preschool Children



Part 3 of 3  
Preschool Home Literacy Activities



## It's never too early to begin reading and writing with your child.

Read a favorite book with your child and share how much you love it! We read aloud and write with children for the same reasons we talk with them: to reassure, entertain, bond, inform, build curiosity, and inspire.

When you read and write together, it goes further than conversation. It creates background knowledge, builds vocabulary, provides a role model, and helps your child become a reader and writer.

This brochure includes activities to help your preschool child develop these literacy skills:

- Print Concepts
- Phonological Awareness
- Letter-sound Knowledge
- Oral Language
- Comprehension
- Writing

Enjoy the provided activities with your child to help him or her begin to see themselves as an effective reader, writer, speaker, and listener!

### Print Concepts

In developing print concepts, children begin to understand how print works and the fact that print carries meaning.

When reading aloud to your child, point to and explain end-of-sentence punctuation. Say:

- "A period is a dot that marks the end of a sentence."
- "An exclamation point is used to show excitement."
- "At the end of a question, you use a question mark."



### Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness is the ability to hear the sounds in words. This is an essential skill that predicts early reading success!

When talking to your child, explain the word syllable. Say:

- "All words have parts that you can hear with your ears. They are called syllables."
- "Red has one syllable: red (clap once)."
- "Purple has two syllables: pur(clap)—ple(clap)."
- "Now you try. Clap your hands for each syllable in the word mom-my."



### Letter-Sound Knowledge

Knowledge of letter-sound relationships is an essential skill used in reading and writing. Being able to quickly recognize letters is helpful in attaching sounds to the correct letters when reading and writing.

Help your child identify letters and sounds in alphabet books.

- Read an alphabet book with your child.
- Stop on each page and say the name of the letter, its sound, and talk about the picture(s). Say, "This is the letter L. It stands for the /l/ sound. Lion starts with the /l/ sound."



### Oral Language

Oral language development provides a foundation for written language development. Children become better readers and writers when they have opportunities to give and follow directions, tell stories, and talk about new information they are learning.

Help your child build oral language skills by encouraging him or her to describe and explain things.

- Talk about a toy, food item, or animal.
- Help your child to describe its attributes. Say:
  - "Tell me about this."
  - "How can we use this?"
  - "What makes it special?"
  - "How else can you describe it?"

