Grow Your Reader skills can be practiced with any book!

Grow Your Reader

ACTIVITIES

Ages 0-2

It's never too early or too late to develop your child's Early Literacy Skills!

If these titles are unavailable, try a book by the same author or illustrator, ask the Library staff for suggestions, or let your child choose.
FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS

Here are some tips & activities to incorporate these skills into your daily routines.

READ
Reading together is the most important thing you can do to develop early literacy skills

- Let your baby hold books and turn pages. Practice will help your child learn how to handle a book.
- Babies enjoy books with bright pictures, primary colors, and pictures of other babies.
- Use books and story time to help set routines at bedtime or bathtime or naptime.
- If you have trouble getting your child to sit for a story, read while they are playing running around or sitting in their high chair.
- Keep books in your diaper bag, so you are prepared to read anywhere.
- Keep books within your child’s reach and allow your child to choose books to read, even if you read the same story again and again.

WRITE
Understanding writing means knowing that written words express ideas and events

- Once comfortable, let your child grab a crayon and scribble on unlined paper.
- Use sand, playdough or food for your child to make lines and shapes in different textures.
- Strengthen finger and hand muscles by playing with toys that are squeezed, pushed together, or pulled apart.
- Talk about shapes that you see around the house (clocks, windows, plates, toys, etc.)
- Point out beginning letters and sounds. When you see the first letter of your baby’s name, point it out in books, labels, signs, etc.
- Play with shapes and blocks. Learning shapes is the first step in learning the letters of the alphabet.

TALK
Conversations teach a child new words and how to express ideas

- Encourage your baby to imitate sounds. This is the beginning of their communication skills.
- Talk about your plans for the day. “First we are eating breakfast. Then we are…”, etc.
- If English is not your native language, talk to your child in the language you know best.
- Talk about similarities and differences between two objects.
- When looking at pictures of babies, talk about what you see and how you think those babies feel. Sad? Frustrated? Happy? Tired?
- Encourage your child to name things they see in books or around them.

SING
Singing breaks down words into distinct sounds and syllables

- Sing throughout your day. Make up songs about changing diapers, cooking dinner, giving a bath, family members, etc. Keep it fun and silly!
- Clap the syllables of your toddler’s name and other words.
- Can’t sing? Sing anyway! Your baby will love hearing your voice.
- Pause before singing the next word in a song, see if your toddler can continue the tune.
- Sing fast and slow, high and low, quiet and loud.
- Use humming and singing to calm your baby.

PLAY
Playing allows children the opportunity to express themselves and their ideas

- Play pretend! Be a puppy, an airplane, anything!
- Make sure that your baby gets plenty of tummy time while looking at books or toys.
- Play peek-a-boo to keep your child entertained wherever you are.
- Play ball by rolling, dropping, catching or kicking.
- Let your toddler give stuffed animals a tour of the house by pulling them around on a blanket or pushing them in a basket.
- Encourage activity while reading. Go to a storyboard walk to read and exercise simultaneously.

PREPARE YOUR CHILD TO BE A SUCCESSFUL READER
Grow Your Reader skills can be practiced with any book!

Asch, Frank  
Berenstain, Stan & Jan  
Brett, Jan  
Bridwell, Norman  
Buehner, Caralyn  
Christelow, Eileen  
Cronin, Doreen  
Dewdney, Anna  
Dubosarsky, Ursula  
Embery, Ed  
Freeman, Don  
Gormley, Greg  
Isop, Laurie  
Johnson, Crockett  
Keats, Ezra Jack  
Kellogg, Steven  
LaRochelle, David  
Litwin, Eric  
London, Jonathan  
Long, Melinda  
Mayer, Mercer  
McQuinn, Anna  
Parr, Todd  
Penn, Audrey  
Portis, Antoinette  
Rosenthal, Amy Krause  
Rubin, Adam  
Santat, Dan  
Schachner, Judy  
Seuss, Dr.  
Shannon, David  
Siato, Joseph  
Siobodkina, Esphyr  
Spires, Ashley  
Thomas, Jan  
Tulett, Herve  
Wieners, David  
Willems, Mo  
Williams, Vera  
Wilson, Karma  

Good Night, Baby Bear  
The Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room  
Three Snow Bears  
Clifford, the Big Red Dog  
Snowmen at Night  
Five Little Monkeys  
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type  
Llama Llama Red Pajama  
The Terrible Plop  
Go Away Big Green Monster  
Corduroy  
Dog in Boots  
How Do You Hug a Porcupine?  
Harold and the Purple Crayon  
Snowy Day  
The Mysterious Tadpole  
It's a Tiger  
Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons  
Froggy Builds a Tree House  
How I Became a Pirate  
I Was So Mad  
Lola Plants a Garden  
The Earth Book  
The Kissing Hand  
Not a Stick  
Duck! Rabbit!  
Dragons Love Tacos  
The Adventures of Beekle  
Skippyjon Jones  
Green Eggs and Ham  
Duck on a Bike  
Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten  
Caps for Sale  
The Most Magnificent Thing  
Can You Make a Scary Face?  
Press Here  
Mr. Wuffles  
Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!  
A Chair for My Mother  
Bear Sees Colors  

Book Recommendations  

If these titles are unavailable, try a book by the same author or illustrator, ask the Library staff for suggestions, or let your child choose.

GROW YOUR READER  
ACTIVITIES

Ages 3-5  
It’s never too early or too late to develop your child’s Early Literacy Skills!
**5 FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS**

Here are some tips & activities to incorporate these skills into your daily routines.

**READ**

Reading together is the most important thing you can do to develop early literacy skills

- Keep reading fun! Let your child pick out books to read.
- Read books with simple rhymes or predictable stories that your child can “help” you read.
- Let your child see you and other family members reading.
- Point to words as you read.
- Let your child turn pages in the book as you read.
- Listen to audiobooks.
- Use expression in your voice when reading to keep your child excited about the story.
- Encourage your child to read to younger siblings or pets.

**WRITE**

Understanding writing means knowing that written words express ideas and events

- Allow your child to scribble and draw on unlined paper.
- Encourage your child to write their name, sign cards, autograph artwork, etc.
- Let your child use scissors and glue to build muscles and coordination in their hands.
- Magnetic letters and letter blocks are a fun way to spell words with your child.
- Point out shapes and letters when you are out. Help your child recognize the letter that begins their name.
- Play with playdough. Make shapes and letters.
- Write down a story your preschooler tells and ask them to draw a picture to illustrate.
- Use bath paints or shaving cream and let your child draw on the walls of the bathtub.

**TALK**

Conversations teach a child new words and how to express ideas

- Relate books to your life. “They are visiting Grandma. What do you like to do at your Grandma’s house?”
- Ask your child open-ended questions and allow plenty of time for them to answer.
- Talk about things seen throughout the day, connecting them back to the books you have read.
- Use new words when you talk. Take time to explain new ideas or words.
- Before reading a book, look at the cover. Ask your child what they think will happen in the story based on the cover. Try this with other pictures or posters you might see.
- At bedtime, ask your child to recount their day.

**SING**

Singing breaks down words into distinct sounds and syllables

- Don’t worry about your singing voice! Your children love your voice! Sing!
- Change favorite songs by singing fast or slow, high or low.
- Look for songs that are interactive. *I’m a Little Teapot, The Wheels on the Bus*, etc.
- Clap and dance with music to build motor skills. Clapping also helps to hear syllables.
- Play rhyming games. How many words can you rhyme with hat? Take turns until you run out of ideas, then move on to a new word.
- Make simple instruments to play as you sing. Put rice in an empty water bottle or bang on and old pan or empty box with a wooden spoon.

**PLAY**

Playing allows children the opportunity to express themselves and their ideas

- Pretend! This is one of the best ways for children to begin telling stories. Encourage storytelling by asking what happens first, next, and last.
- Retell stories using puppets or other toys.
- Let your child build with blocks. Ask questions about what your child builds.
- Turn your blankets and pillows into a fort or a bird’s nest.
- Take your play outside! Explore your neighborhood or go enjoy a storybook walk.
- Go to the Library. Each Library has different stations for playing.