

## TALK

Did you know the more words children hear early in life the better they will be at reading and writing later?

Use these books to TALK with your child:

*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* by Mo Willems  
*Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow* by Susan Shea  
*Moo!* by David LaRochelle

Narrate your day. Talk about everything you and your child do throughout the day.

Expand on what your child says. If your child says "Truck," respond with, "Yes, that is a big red fire truck."



## SING

Did you know that singing slows down language and helps your child learn the rhythm in language?

Use these books to SING with your child:

*Nighty-Night, Cooper* by Laura Numeroff  
*Jazz Baby* by Lisa Wheeler  
*The Neighborhood Mother Goose* by Nina Crews

Make up songs about what you are doing throughout your day. Set them to a familiar tune.

Sing nursery rhymes, familiar songs and new songs with your child. Repeat them over and over so your child can learn them. Clap, bounce or dance to the beat of the songs

# EARLY LITERACY MATTERS!

For more fun, easy activities that will help your child get ready to learn to read in kindergarten, go to Storyblocks to watch short videos of rhymes and songs:

<http://www.storyblocks.org/>

## READ

Did you know reading to your child is the single biggest predictor of later school success?

Use these books to READ with your child:

*Backseat A-B-See* by Maria Van Lieshout  
*Maybe a Bear Ate It!* by Robie Harris;  
*Open This Little Book* by Jesse Klausmeier

Read aloud with your child every day. Point to the words while you read them. Talk about the pictures in the book.

Let your child "read" things around him. Your child will begin "reading" signs, logos and her name first. Label your house with other words: oven, door, toys, etc.

## WRITE

Did you know reading and writing develop together? When children practice writing—including drawing and coloring—they also practice reading.

Use these books to WRITE with your child:

*The Things I Can Do* by Jeff Mack  
*Bunny Cakes* by Rosemary Wells  
*A Splendid Friend, Indeed* by Suzanne Bloom

Give your child small blocks or other small toys. Using small toys helps build hand muscles to get your child ready to write.

Give children their own writing space with paper, crayons, markers, paint, paintbrushes and other fun writing materials.

## PLAY

Did you know pretend play is your child telling his own stories?

Use these books to PLAY with your child:

*Nino Wrestles the World* by Yuyi Morales  
*Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building* by Christy Hale  
*Press Here* by Henri Tullet

Put on a puppet show using sock puppets. Make up a story or retell a story your child already knows.

Pretend with your child. Use objects around your house to use for pretend games. A bowl can become a crown. A rope can become a snake.