



Early Literacy Tips

Edwardsville Public Library

Help your child get ready to read with these simple activities!

Talking

- Children need to have a vocabulary of 3,000-5,000 words by the time they enter school. So, talk to your child, no matter what age, and encourage your child to talk with you.
- Stretch your child's vocabulary. Repeat what your child says and use new words.

Singing

- Sing the alphabet song.
- Clap along to the rhythms in songs so children hear the syllables in words.

Reading

- Find books that you and your child will be enthusiastic to share.
- Use books to help teach new words. Books can teach less common words, words that children may not hear in everyday conversation.

Writing

- Writing begins with scribbles and other marks. Encourage this by providing many opportunities to draw and write.
- Point out differences and similarities between letters and shapes.

Playing

- Give your child plenty of playtime. Some of the best kinds of play are unstructured, when children can use their imaginations and create stories about what they're doing.
- Encourage dramatic play. When children make up stories using puppets or stuffed animals, they develop important narrative skills, helping them understand that stories and books have a beginning, middle, and end.

Information based on "Every Child Ready to Read", a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association