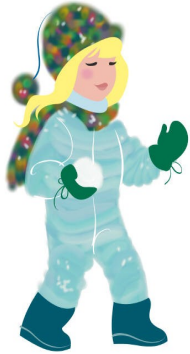


Getting Warmer!

Playing with your child can help him learn new vocabulary words. The next time you get ready to go outside, hide your child's mittens. Use directional words to help your child find them. As she gets closer to finding them say, "You are getting warmer!" If she goes away from them, say "You are getting colder!"

Use directional words like *in front of*, *next to*, *beside*, *under*, *above*.



Learning Tip:

One of the components of early literacy is vocabulary, or knowing the names and meanings of words. Children need to hear a new word many times in order to remember it. Use new words in different ways and at different times to help your child learn and understand them.

You can help your children be ready to learn to read as

y o u
talk, sing, read, write, and play with them every day.

EveryCHILD
Ready to READ[®]
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Talk When you talk with your children about things they are interested in, using new words, and when you talk about things you know, you add to their knowledge and help them understand what they will read. When you tell them stories and wonder together, you help them think beyond the here and now. Allowing time for your children to talk as you listen to them, will also later help them understand what they read. When you talk with babies, they are learning the sounds of the languages they hear.



Sing When you sing with your children you help them hear the smaller sounds in words. Singing slows down language. Each syllable has a different note. When you explain new words in the songs you help them learn the meanings of words.



Read When you read with your children, they learn how books work. Read both storybooks and factual books with your children. Your children benefit from learning new words and information which will help them understand what they read. When you have enjoyable times reading books together, children will more likely want to learn to read themselves.



Write When you write with your children, you help them connect the written word to the spoken word. Encourage their ideas as you give them opportunities to scribble, draw, and write. Have them tell about what they have written.



Play When you play with your children, encourage their imagination as they have one object represent another—a pencil is a wand, a block is a train. Abstract thinking is what is needed to learn to read. Pictures and text represent are not the real thing; they represent real things. As children act out stories and events, they understand how stories work. You can add to their knowledge of the world through play.

Learning to Read

includes two key skill areas

Decoding: matching the written word to the spoken word, matching sounds and letters

- Hear and play with sounds in words
- Know shapes, alike and different, letters
- Understand how print and books work

Comprehension: understanding what they read

- Know the meanings of words
- Use what they know to understand what they read

Ask your librarian for more information on helping your child get ready to learn to read!