

ENCOURAGING EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY in your home is the cornerstone to building a lifelong love of learning in your children. Reading with your children helps them to develop the essential skills they will need to succeed in life and will also create wonderful childhood memories for them.

Literacy can be encouraged for children ages three through five by spending at least fifteen minutes a day reading together and by highlighting the words and letters you come across in your everyday routine. This brochure suggests simple ways to read together, as well as recommended stories to begin sharing together.

The Newark Public Library offers a wide selection of books, programming, and resources to help you and your child begin your journey. We are your partner in building Newark's future readers and leaders.

“We enjoy coming to the library once a week as a family. Reading is a passion for my daughter and me.”
Maureen

“When you hear a child say ‘mommy read it again’ most likely that child will go to college. It is such a joy to run through the stacks of books and to hear the voices of the past, present and sometimes the future.” Diahann



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Reading Together

Tips for reading with your child



Skills

Ideas

Suggested Books

Read with Me

Print Motivation

- Read with your child every day.
- Fill your home with books for your child – and yourself.
- Let your child see you reading on a regular basis.
- Visit your library often and ask your librarian for assistance.
- Read chapter books as often as you read picture books.

- *Please Puppy Please* by Tonya Lewis Lee & Spike Lee
- *Press Here* by Herve Tullet
- *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown
- *Spoon* by Amy Krause Rosenthal

Words in the World

Print Awareness

- Point out the words in your daily life — street signs, labels, grocery items — and read them aloud to your child.
- Point to words as you read a picture book to your child.
- Let your younger children hold cloth and board books.

- *Tails* by Matthew Van Fleet
- *Who's Like Me?* By Nicola Davies
- *Overboard* by Sarah Weeks
- *The Baby Goes Beep* by Rebecca O'Connell

A, B, Cs

Letter Knowledge

- Read alphabet books with large letters and pictures.
- Write your child's name and say the letters aloud.
- Use letter magnets on your fridge to spell different words each day.
- Help your child trace the letters of the alphabet.

- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault
- *Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z* by Lois Ehlert

What is that?

Vocabulary

- Use rich, descriptive words when speaking to your child.
- Touch different objects in your home and repeat what they are to your child. The same can be done with different parts of the body.
- Read fiction and non-fiction books to your child.
- Encourage your child to ask questions.

- *Big Words for Little People* by Jamie Lee Curtis
- *Bad Kitty* by Nick Bruel
- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- *But Excuse Me That is My Book* by Lauren Child

Once Upon a Time

Narrative Skills

- Describe to your child what you are doing while you are doing it.
- Use different voices for characters while reading aloud.
- Read favorite stories again...and again and again.
- Ask your child to turn the pages as you read a book.
- Read lift-the-flap or touch-and-feel books.

- *Hello Baby* by Mem Fox
- *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* by Mo Willems
- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura J. Numeroff

Rhyme Time

Phonological Awareness

- Incorporate songs and rhymes into your reading time.
- Repeat nursery rhymes with an emphasis on the words that rhyme.
- Make up silly, rhyming nonsense songs.
- Sing songs with added actions, like "I'm A Little Teapot."

- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
- *Click, Clack Moo: Cows that Type* by Doreen Cronin
- *Mini Racer* by Kristie Dempsey