



Strategies to Help Children Develop Literacy Skills¹

Here are some strategies you can use daily:

- ⇒ Model reading and writing.
- ⇒ Create opportunities for children to use literacy-related skills (creative dramatization, bookmaking, communication games, field trips).
- ⇒ Share high-quality children's books and magazines, especially those related to what children are investigating.
- ⇒ Read aloud daily to the whole group, individual children, or small groups when they ask or when the time seems right.
- ⇒ Read stories more than once so children can master content and use of language.
- ⇒ Encourage children to discuss books by commenting, asking questions, and predicting what will happen next.
- ⇒ Encourage children to look at books and magazines at naptime.
- ⇒ Help children integrate reading and writing into their playtime.
- ⇒ Share songs, rhymes, and finger plays with the children.
- ⇒ Encourage oral communication.
- ⇒ Invite children to talk about their investigations.
- ⇒ Take dictation from children as they tell stories, label their artwork, prepare messages for others, or discuss things they have learned.
- ⇒ Invite children to record their ideas and findings on audiotape or on paper, as drawings, tallies, or words.
- ⇒ Invite children to use writing materials as part of their play.
- ⇒ Plan activities that include recognition of letters, words, and numbers, such as cooking or mapping.
- ⇒ Welcome volunteers who can read to or take dictation from the children. Remember, volunteers may need orientation or training.
- ⇒ Encourage social literacy experiences such as sharing a book with a friend or writing with a volunteer.
- ⇒ If television or video watching are part of the day's activities, carefully select the programs and videos that children watch, and limit the time children spend watching them.
- ⇒ Help families become involved in children's pre-literacy experiences.

