Ten Tips for Families of Young Children

Read aloud to your child every day
  ● Read to babies even before they can talk
  ● Let your child see and touch the book
  ● Play with voices and the sounds of words

Create a print rich-home environment
  ● Have a wide variety of books available to children
  ● Encourage children to look at books on their own
  ● Set aside a family reading area and a family reading time

Use grocery shopping to encourage reading and writing
  ● Have children help you search for specific brands
  ● Use the aisle markers with your child to find items
  ● Match coupons to products
  ● Have children write out grocery lists (if age appropriate)

Cook with your child to develop literacy
  ● Show your child how to read a recipe
  ● Read the labels on ingredients together
  ● Make a family cookbook of favorite recipes
  ● Develop oral literacy by talking about family recipes and cooking tips

Point out environmental print to children.
  ● Note signage during nature walks and other outings
  ● Discuss logos
  ● Ask children to point out print outside of the home environment

Tell stories together
  ● Talk together about your family history
  ● Look at old vacation photos and discuss your memories of the trip
  ● Record your storytelling
  ● Create family photo albums and have our child help craft the captions

Sing and rhyme with your child
  ● Choose songs with rhymes and word play
  ● Play rhyming games with your child such as what other words sound like “honey”?
  ● Challenge your child to sing or say rhymes as fast as they can and don’t forget to laugh if the results are silly
Write with your child
- Provide lots of writing materials (chalk, markers, crayons, and pencils)
- Encourage your child to draw and write on their own
- Encourage your child to write thank you notes to grandparents, make to-do lists, etc.

Tie literacy to art
- Visit an art museum together and use storytelling to explain what is happening in the artwork. Allow your child to interpret the artwork however he/she views it
- Have children create their own drawings, painting, sculptures, and even instillation pieces made from recyclables in your living room
- Explain art with sentence strips on which children dictate to you what their artwork is about (consider making a recording in which the children can tell a story about their artwork)

Visit the library (and/or bookstore) often
- Make trips as often as you can
- Encourage your child to get his or her own library card
- Take advantage of library programs, such as read alouds and family book clubs

Source: Reading Is Fundamental

Last Modified: April 2019