

Appendix B

ACTIVITIES AND TIPS FOR PARENTS

Beginning Language (ages 0 to 2)¹	
Listening and Talking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin talking and singing to your child from birth • Let your baby know that you hear her babbles, coos, and gurgles • Play simple touching and talking games together • Point to familiar objects and name them • When your child begins to speak, build his language • Encourage your child to talk with you • Answer your child's questions
Read Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make reading a pleasure • Show enthusiasm as you read with your child • Read to your child often • Talk with your child as you read together • Encourage your child to explore books • Read favorite books again and again
Pre-Reader (ages 3 to 4)²	
Listening and Talking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you do something together—eating, shopping, taking a walk, visiting a relative—talk about it • Take your child to new places and introduce him to new experiences • Teach your child the meaning of new words • Help your child to follow directions • Play with words
Read Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep reading to your child • Read predictable books • Read poetry and other rhyming books to your child • Ask your child what she thinks will happen next in a story • Talk about books • Build a library, or book collection, for your child
Print and Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your child learn to recognize her name in print • Point out words and letters everywhere you can • Teach your child the alphabet song • Share alphabet books with your child • Put magnetic letters on your refrigerator or other smooth, safe metal surface • Play games using the alphabet
Spelling and Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to write often—for example, letters and thank-you notes to relatives and friends, simple stories, e-mails, and items for the grocery list • Help your child learn the correct spellings of words

¹ Adapted from Armbruster, Lehr & Osborn, 2006

² Adapted from Armbruster, Lehr & Osborn, 2006

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Vocabulary and Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about new words that your child has read or heard • Help your child use the dictionary or thesaurus to check on the meanings of new words she reads or hears • Help your child become aware of prefixes, suffixes, and root words • Show your child how to use context—the sentences, words, and pictures around an unfamiliar word—to figure out the word’s meaning • As you read a book with your child, stop now and then to talk to her about the meaning of the book
Novice Reader (ages 5 to 7)³	
Listening and Talking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your child often...as you eat together, shop for groceries, walk to school, wait for a bus • Have your child use his imagination to make up and tell you stories; ask questions that will encourage him to expand the stories • Have a conversation about recent family photographs • Listen to your child’s questions patiently and answer them just as patiently • Talk about books that you’ve read together • Pay attention to how much TV your child is watching • Tell stories about your childhood
Books & Print	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you read with your child, have him point out things, such as the front and back covers and the title • Help your child make connections between print and pictures as you read
Spoken Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing or say nursery rhymes and songs • Play word games • Read a story or poem and ask your child to listen for words that begin with the same sound • As you read, stop and say a simple word
Alphabet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point out letters and have your child name them • Make an alphabet book with your child
Letters and Sounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point out labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines, and signs that display words with letter-sound relationships that your child is learning in kindergarten • Listen to your child read words and books from school • Listen to your child read books from school • Say the sounds of letters and ask your child to write the letter or letters that represent the sound • Ask your child to point out the letter-sound relationships he is learning in all of the things you are reading together—books, calendars, labels, magazines, and newspapers • Play word games

³ Adapted from Armbruster, Lehr & Osborn, 2001

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<p>Spell and Write</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When your child is writing, encourage her to spell words by using what she knows about sounds and letters • Encourage your child to write notes, e-mails, and letters to family members and friends • Have your child create his own picture book made with his own drawings or with pictures that he cuts from magazines • Say a word your child knows and have him repeat the word • Write a word on paper and cut the letters apart (or use plastic or foam letters) • As you are reading with your child, point out words that have similar spellings, such as hop and pop • Encourage your child to write often—for example, letters and thank-you notes, simple stories, and grocery lists
<p>Vocabulary and Comprehension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you read aloud, pause from time to time to ask him about the meaning of the book • Use and repeat important words such as names of buildings, parks, zoos, cities, and other places that you visit • Help your child develop an interest in the world • When you read together, stop now and then to talk about the meaning of the book • Before you come to the end of a story, ask your child to predict what might happen next or how the story will end • Talk about new words and ideas that your child has read or heard • Read magazines and newspapers together
<p>Developing Reader (ages 7 to 9)⁴</p>	
<p>Reading</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to your child read books that he has brought home from school • If your child is not a very fluent reader (that is, she reads slowly and makes lots of mistakes), ask her to reread a paragraph or page a few times
<p>Spelling and Writing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to write often—for example, letters and thank-you notes to relatives and friends, simple stories, e-mails, and items for the grocery list • Help your child learn the correct spellings of words
<p>Vocabulary and Comprehension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about new words that your child has read or heard • Help your child use the dictionary or thesaurus to check on the meanings of new words she reads or hears • Help your child become aware of prefixes, suffixes, and root words • Show your child how to use context—the sentences, words, and pictures around an unfamiliar word—to figure out the word’s meaning • As you read a book with your child, stop now and then to talk to her about the meaning of the book

⁴ Adapted from Armbruster, Lehr & Osborn, 2001