



C.A.R.E.S.

(Creating **A**ctive **R**eaders **E**nsures **S**uccess)



Reading With Your Kids

What Is Literacy?

Literacy is a person's ability to communicate with others by reading, speaking, listening and writing. It is a powerful tool that enables a person to make sense of the world around him. Literacy is important now, and will continue to be necessary throughout life. This power ability must be developed, and you, as a parent, are one of the people who have a tremendous influence on your child's literacy.

Reading aloud with children gives us many opportunities to advance a child's literacy. Through our interactions with a young child, we can:

- ✓ Develop general and literacy-related vocabulary.
- ✓ Develop story comprehension skills.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of the structure of stories.
- ✓ Strengthen the parent-child bond.
- ✓ Increase word recognition skills.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of the writing process.



What Can You Do During a Read-Aloud?

Try to remember to do the following when you read aloud to your child:

- ✓ Point out the title.
- ✓ Point out the author.
- ✓ Point out the illustrator.
- ✓ Read the dedication, if any.
- ✓ Look at the cover illustration and predict what will happen in the story.
- ✓ Look at the story pictures before you read and predict what will happen in the story.
- ✓ Talk out loud about what you are doing, for example, "I'll read the words at the *top* of the page to find out what it says" or "We always start at the *front* of the book."
- ✓ Move your finger under the words to show that we read from left to right. Use expression!
- ✓ Let your child take the lead sometimes by letting them comment or ask questions as you read.
- ✓ Make a prediction.
- ✓ Make a connection (text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world).
- ✓ Ask questions to check for understanding.

What Can You Do After You Read Aloud to a Child?

Create a New Story

- ✓ Talk about the characters in the story.
- ✓ Describe them, using character traits such as silly, kind, foolish, curious, or patient.
- ✓ Make up a new story about the character by imagining what they might do next.
 - Example- After reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears:
 - Tell what Goldilocks might do when she visits a zoo and sees the bears there.
 - What will happen when she goes home and tells her parents, or goes to school and tells her classmates what happened to her?
 - What will the bears do to repair their damages and protect themselves from future intruders?

Change One Element

- ✓ The main elements of a story are the characters, setting, problem and solution.
- ✓ Try changing one of these to create a new story.
 - Example- after reading Little Red Riding Hood:
 - Change the wolf to a pig or an eagle. How would the story be different?
 - Change the story so Grandma lives in an apartment building instead of the woods.
 - Could the problem be Little Red Riding Hood gets lost instead of the wolf trying to eat her?
 - Could the wolf help her instead of trying to hurt her?

Role-playing

- ✓ Act out the story with your child.
 - Example- you take the part of the child in If You Give a Mouse a Cookie:
 - Let your child be the mouse. You can give your child a real cookie, and they can ask for more and more things they need as a result.
 - They can be the prince to your Cinderella, and you can dance at the ball.
 - They can be Mike Mulligan operating the steam shovel in a race against the new gas powered steam shovel that you operate. Of course, they will win!

Rereading

- ✓ When a child enjoys a book and wants you to “read it again”, focus on specific
 - Read it again:
 - Notice particular words.
 - Notice letters.
 - Learn sight words.
 - Develop love of a good story.
 - Increases willingness to read on their own.
 - Mix it up a little by:
 - You read the first half of a sentence, and your child completes it.
 - Read it out loud at the same time (choral reading).

- Reading with expression (make it sound like a question when there's a question mark, angry voice when character is angry, etc.).
- Read a sentence to your child and then ask them where a word is.

Put Yourself in the Story

- ✓ Connect the story to personal knowledge.
 - Ask questions like these:
 - Did something like this ever happen to you?
 - Do any of the characters remind you of anyone you know?
 - Example: after reading Green Eggs and Ham, you might ask:
 - What color eggs do you eat?
 - Would you ever eat green eggs?
 - Are there any foods that you do not like to eat?
 - Do you think green eggs taste different?
 - *You might even find out by making green eggs!*
 - If your child can't respond, you can make connections yourself with statements like these:
 - That character reminds me of _____ because _____
 - This (house, family, dog, etc.) is like ours because _____
 - *You can also have your child imagine themselves in the story. Read the book substituting their name for the name of the main character.*

Look For Patterns

- ✓ Many stories, poems, and nursery rhymes include words, phrases, and sentences that are repeated throughout the text.
 - Example: in Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
 - Several phrases and sentences are repeated throughout the story, making it easy for your child to predict what words come next, and join in reading with you.
 - *You can even stop reading, and let them take over!*

Ask Questions

- ✓ Good readers ask questions while they read.
- ✓ Model your own questions for your child, and they will soon do the same.
 - Some ways to share your questions might be:
 - I wonder why...
 - What if...
 - What do you think will happen next?

Try Nonfiction and Poetry

- ✓ Nonfiction:
 - Children love to learn about the world around them
 - Children learn how these information books are different from stories

- Usually have excellent pictures
- ✓ Poetry:
 - Rhythms and rhymes are always enjoyable
 - Many are humorous
 - Make you think differently about something
 - Paints pictures in your head
 - Time-friendly as many are short

What Can You Do If Your Child Doesn't Know A Word?

Good listeners can . . .

- ✓ Pay close attention to the reader's error
- ✓ Ask "Does that sound right?"
- ✓ Give the reader time to fix the mistake
- ✓ Fix only important mistakes that interfere with the meaning of the story
- ✓ Suggest a strategy (letters, pictures, context)
- ✓ Praise the reader's efforts
- ✓ Ask them if you can tell them the word, if they are still stuck



Writing With Your Kids

Just as reading aloud to our children shows them how reading is done, writing with children shows them how to write, why we write, and that writing is an important part of a literate life. When we get our children's ideas down on paper, we show them that their ideas have value, and are worthy of reading again and again.

What Should A Young Child's Writing Look Like?

Emerging Writers	
Early: ✓ Uncontrolled or unidentifiable scribbling. Late: ✓ Draws a somewhat recognizable picture. ✓ Tells about drawing.	
Pre-communicative Writers (Scribble Stage)	
✓ Writes letter-like forms. ✓ May include random letters and/or letter strings randomly placed on page. ✓ Attempts to read message. ✓ Writes own name or occasional known word.	

Semi-Phonetic Writers

EARLY:

- ✓ Writes one or more letters to represent every word.
- ✓ Writes from left to right.
- ✓ May reverse some letters.
- ✓ Correctly uses some letters to match sounds.

LATE:

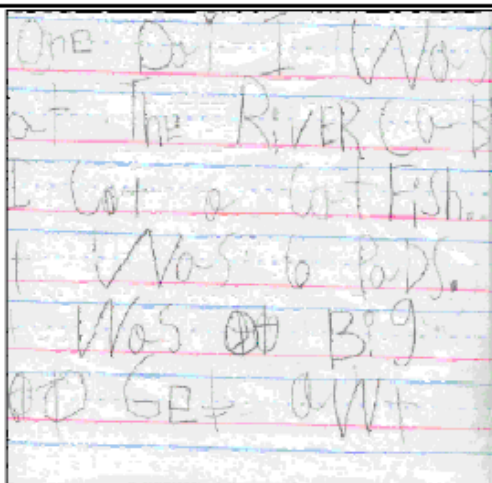
- ✓ Spells some high frequency words correctly.
- ✓ Writes at least one sentence.



Phonetic (Early Spelling)

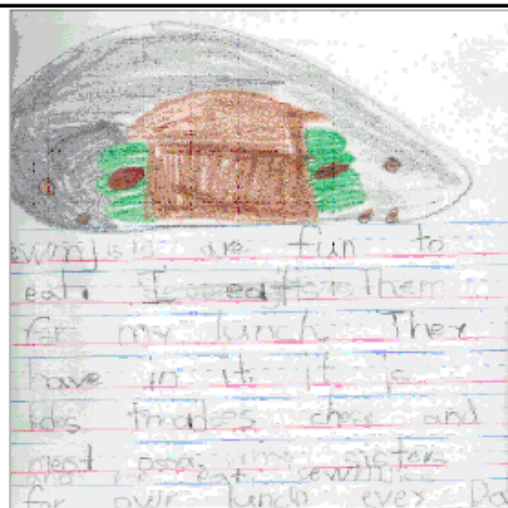
EARLY:

- ✓ Uses both upper and lower case letters.
- ✓ Writes from left to right and top to bottom.
- ✓ May reverse some letters.
- ✓ Uses logical phonetic spelling; most sounds in words are represented by a letter.
- ✓ Includes some vowels (often incorrectly).
- ✓ Spells some high frequency words correctly.
- ✓ Separates words with spaces, dots, or dashes.
- ✓ Writes two or more sentences on a related topic or theme.



Transitional

- ✓ Correctly spells many high frequency words used in sentences.
- ✓ Uses logical phonetic spelling including vowels in most syllables (may be incorrect).
- ✓ Capitalizes beginning word in sentence, names and the pronoun "I"; lower case letters used appropriately.
- ✓ Correctly uses periods and question marks.
- ✓ Uses regular verb endings.
- ✓ Writes three or more sentences on a related topic or theme.



Conventional

- ✓ Correctly spells most high frequency words used in sentences.
- ✓ Uses logical phonetic spelling (including logical choices of vowels) in most syllables.
- ✓ Accurately capitalizes first word in sentence, pronoun "I" and proper nouns.
- ✓ Accurately uses periods, question marks, exclamation marks, and commas in a series.
- ✓ Accurately uses plurals.
- ✓ Writes a paragraph on a topic or theme.

My dog can sit.
He is a good dog.
I like to pet him.

How Can Reading Aloud Lead to Writing?

Many stories can provide a child with writing ideas. Here are some you might try with your child:

Continue the Story

- ✓ After reading a story, ask your child to imagine that the book has just a few more pages.
- ✓ What would be written on those pages?
- ✓ What might happen next?
 - Example- after reading Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?:
 - Ask what might happen if Little Bear wakes up in the middle of the night.
 - What would Big Bear do now?

Character Adventures

- ✓ Draw or photocopy a favorite story character
 - Give your child a large sheet of paper, the character, some glue and writing tools.
 - Have them paste the character down, and draw a scene that creates a new adventure for the character, or retells the original story.
 - The youngest child can tell the story from their drawing
 - The older children can label parts of their picture, or write a few sentences about the action in the picture.

Wordless Books

- ✓ Some books have no words.
- ✓ The story is told in the pictures.
 - Example- after "reading" Tuesday:
 - Your child can write or dictate the words for each page of the story.

Letter Writing

- ✓ After reading a story, you may have some questions or comments about the story characters or events.
 - Put them in a letter to the main character.
 - Pretend to mail it.
 - You might even write a return letter to surprise them!

Information Books

- ✓ Children love facts about their favorite topics, like dinosaurs, whales or volcanoes.
- ✓ Give your child several sheets of paper stapled together to form a book.
- ✓ They can draw pictures about the facts they've learned, and write a sentence to go with each, creating their own information book.

Patterned Writing

- ✓ Many stories have repetitive language.
 - Example- after reading The Important Book:
 - Children can easily repeat the sentence pattern that occurs throughout the book.

- They can follow this pattern to write their own sentences.

Writing Tools

- ✓ Have tools that excite your writer :
 - variety of paper
 - holiday designs
 - lined
 - unlined
 - colored paper
 - variety of writing utensils
 - pencils
 - crayons
 - colored pencils
 - markers
 - glitter pens
 - chalk
 - paint brushes
 - reference books
 - dictionaries
 - thesaurus



What Can We Write About?

- ✓ The list is truly endless, but here's a sample:
 - lists: shopping, packing, party supplies, schedule
 - cards: birthday, holiday, thank you, get well, invitations
 - letters, postcards, emails
 - signs: garage sale, school election, spirit signs
 - stories about: yourself, imaginary characters, family, objects, places
 - journals, diaries
 - ABC books
 - captions for your photo albums

When Readers Come to Words They Don't Know . . .

- ✓ Good listeners can . . .
 - pay close attention to the reader's error
 - ask "Does that sound right?"
 - give the reader time to fix the mistake
 - fix only important mistakes that interfere with the meaning of the story
 - suggest a strategy (letters, pictures, context)
 - praise the reader's efforts
 - ask them if you can tell them the word, if they are still stuck



Resources:

Early Literacy Assessment, McGraw Hill Publishing, 1997

Early Writing Development, <http://www.lindaslearninglinks.com>,

Kid Writing, Eileen G. Feidus and Isabel Cardonick, Wright Group Pub., 1999

Invitations, Reggie Routman, Heinemann Pub. 1995

Parent Workshop Early Literacy, Patricia Marseglia, Diane Stanton, North Plainfield Public Schools, Pub. 2004

Family Literacy Websites

Sight Words

Website	Description
NetRover: King's Kid	Bored? Is reading a little too hard? If so, practice those "need to know" words with NetRover
NetRover: Hangman List	WATCH OUT! If you guess too many letters wrong to the sight words, you lose... Choose Hangman or one of the other several games.
Family Learning Word Games	Dinosaurs, spaceships and zebras, OH MY! Have fun with these crazy games to learn your beginning words!
K-12 Reader	An article for parents that is intertwined with links to fun games to help your child learn sight words.
Prongo	A cute animated game that helps children identify sight words with their matching pictures.
JC Schools Games List	A list of over 50 games to help your child to become a fluent reader
Ms. Ross	Puzzles and Crosswords for those advanced thinkers who are working on sight words.
Gamequarium	Gamequarium: The site that swims with learning fun!

Rhyming

Website	Description
PBS Kids	From Sesame Street to Clifford, this website shows us how fun rhyming can be!
Nursery Rhymes 4 U	With this site you can't go wrong. Learn some poems and a song!
Grandpa Tucker	Belly buttons, spiders, snakes, rhyme about these things, goodness sakes!
Kaboose	Ho hum and hey diddle, diddle. Go to this site for some rhyming riddles!

Comprehension

Website	Description
Clifford the Big Red Dog	Have fun with everyone's favorite big red dog!
Reading Matrix	A site for all ages: How well do YOU understand what you read?

Phonics

Website	Description
Between the Lions Game	Come play with the lions as you listen to words and figure out which word it matches! ROAR!!!
Jim's Whirlyword Machine	Spin the wheel and make a word. Then figure out if it is a real word or not!
Learning Planet	Know the alphabet? Click on the letter to see which words start with that letter!
Story Magnets	How many sentences can you make with these refrigerator magnets? Have fun!
Literacy Center	For those that are starting to remember what each letter looks like, this website is fun, bright and has fun sounds!
Poisson Rouge	It's a scavenger hunt of knowledge in the Poisson Rouge bedroom! What will you find?
Bembo's Zoo	Come visit Bembo's zoo and try to find the animals that go with each letter!
Family Learning	Whether in the Wild West or Under the Sea, Family Learning has games for all to enjoy.
ICT Games	Like to play BINGO??? ICT has several fun games for your child to fall in love with.
Read, Write, Think	Have a kindergartner AND a senior in high school? Scroll to the bottom and find activities for both of them!
Phonic's Play	Who wants to have a picnic on Pluto? Well if it sounds interesting, check out Phonic's Play!
Sadlier-Oxford	A huge list of games from kids in preschool to preteens in middle school!

PBS Kids	Caillou, Mr. Rogers and a lot of other friends helped your parents to learn to read. Let them help you, too!
Sesame Street	E is for Elmo; O is for Oscar. Work on letters with your favorite friends!

Vocabulary	
Website	Description
Same/Difference Scroll	Twirl the scroll to find synonyms or antonyms. If Level 1 is too easy, they have two more!
Kids' Place	Pick your locker (grades 1-6) and play fun games to learn "juicy" words.
Awesome Antonyms Match-Up	<i>Huge</i> is the same as <i>big</i> , but what is the opposite? Test your skills on this matching game.
Spelling Word Machine	Are your spelling words too easy? Come challenge yourself with spelling words from grades 1 to 6!
Homograph Spelling Jeopardy	It's Jeopardy.. but for spelling! And it can be for one or two players.
The Berenstain Bears	Come have fun with Ma, Pa, Brother and Sister Bear!
Merriam-Webster Visual Dictionary	Want to know facts about ANYTHING? This visual dictionary has facts and pictures that will blow your mind!
Vocabulary Games	Like to play Hangman? Well there's no man. Instead, there is a mouse... and if you mess up too many times, the cat will get him!
Fact Monster	From nouns to spelling to.... anything else to do with school, Fact Monster is there for you!

Word Central	Robots come in all shapes and sizes. These robots come with the power to help you learn new words!
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Interactive Reading Sites	
Website	Description
Roy the Zebra	One zebra.... One boy.... One dream.....
PBS Kids	Join a bunch of your favorite friends as they read stories for you to enjoy.
Book Adventure	Students in grades 1 through 8 listen to stories, answer questions and earn prizes!
Book Pals	Some of your favorite celebrities read some of your favorite books!
Bembo's Zoo	Come visit Bembo's zoo and try to find the animals that go with each letter!
Scribble	If I gave you 10 letters, how many different words can you make from them? Challenge your friends and family with <i>Scribble</i>
Sesame Street Workshop	Grover, Zoey and Big Bird are always having problems. Listen to the stories and play the games to help them out!
My Hero	Read stories about people's heroes. Then submit a story about one of your own heroes.
Don't Wet The Bear	Play different levels of Hangman. But if you guess too many wrong, you wet the bear!
Dositey	A lot of free homework help for everyone from Kindergarten through 8 th grade!

Kids Reads	Answer the trivia questions from your favorite books and have a chance to win free books for your home library!
Scholastic	Come join Nina the newt, Leo the lobster and Reggie the rhino on more than 60 different adventures!
Star Fall	Who said that you can't play while you read? Star Fall offers a lot of games to go along with the stories.
Cyber Chase	These stories are for those friends who love outer space and aliens!
PBS Playhouse	Feebi, Fuubi, Feedy Fum; This fairy tale has Jack on the run! Enjoy this story and many more!
Inkless Tales	Inkless Tales has a ton of stories for all ages to enjoy!
Fun Factory Game	Drive your car and collect the letters... but don't run into the other cars! When you collect them all, make some words!
Primary Reading Games	Clueless Crosswords and Eat Your Words are only two of the crazy games that this site has to offer!

Reading Sites For Kids	
Website	Description
Story Line Online	Some of your favorite celebrities read some of your favorite books!
JC Schools: Interact Reading	Bored? Have fun with all of these games and you won't even realize that you are learning!
Kids National Geographic	How big is a baby kangaroo? What does the inside of a volcano look like? Find these out and many more fact!

Fun Brain	Have fun doing some activities with “Diary Of A Wimpy Kid” and other popular books!
McKenna’s Mouse Pad	With activities such as “I Spy” and coloring with Crayola”, how can you go wrong?
UConn Literacy	In 5 th or 6 th grade and lost on how to become a better reader? Check out this site for a list of websites that are there to help!
Literacy Center	Words aren’t just on books; we use them to say colors, shapes and words on TV. This site will help you identify words we always use.
Star Fall	Who said that you can’t play while you read? Star Fall offers a lot of games to go along with the stories.
Between The Lions Game	Come play with the lions as you listen to words and figure out which word it matches! ROAR!!!
Inkless Tales	Inkless Tales has a ton of stories for all ages to enjoy!

Sight Word Phone Apps

iPhone

App Title	Price
Learn Sight Words	\$0.99
Pocket Wally Sight Words	\$0.99
Smiley Sight Words	\$0.99
Spelling 100	\$0.99
Sight Words Arena	\$0.99
300+ Sight Words	\$0.99
Sight Words Halloween	\$1.99

Palm

App Title	Price
Dolch Sight Words v1.0	FREE

Windows (HTC)	
App Title	Price
First Words Learning	FREE
All Sight Words	\$0.99
MicroWords	\$0.99
Sight Words	\$0.99

Android	
App Title	Price
Sight Words	FREE
Dolch Sight Words (Pre-Primer)	FREE
Dolch Sight Words (Primer)	FREE

Dolch Sight Words (1 st Grade)	FREE
Dolch Sight Words (2 nd Grade)	FREE
Dolch Sight Words (Nouns)	FREE
Sight Word Flash Cards	FREE
Dolch – Sight Words Trainer	FREE
Dolch Sight Words: 3 rd Grade	\$0.99
Learn Dolch Sight Words	\$0.99
PreSchool Basics	\$1.99

