

KINDERGARTEN READINESS LITERACY ACTIVITIES FOR

Student Success

PRESCHOOL



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE
ST. CLAIR COUNTY



Help Me Grow[®]
St. Clair County

ST. CLAIR COUNTY REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY
Early Childhood Services

Build the foundation for your child's future academic success

Dear Families,

You are your child's first teacher, and reading with your child is a proven way to promote early literacy. You play a significant role in building literacy skills through daily reading, storytelling, and providing access to books and other literacy materials. By reading with your child for 15 minutes per day, you can positively impact your child's success in school.

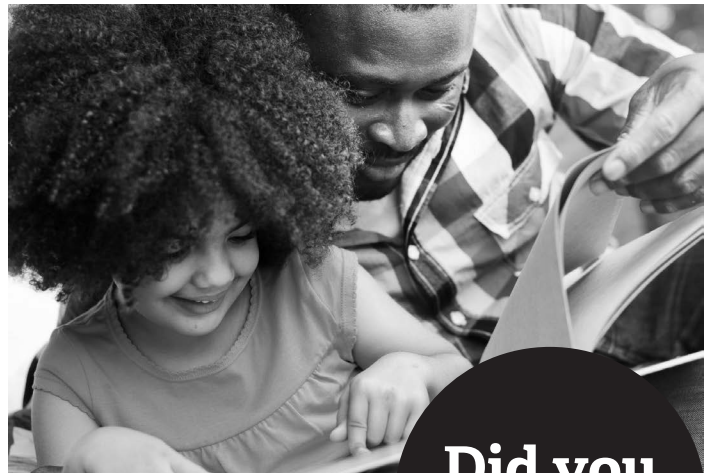
This booklet includes activities to help your child develop these early literacy skills:

- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Writing

Commit to read with your child every day

By reading aloud with your child for just **15 MINUTES** every day from birth, you can positively impact your child's success in school and:

- Grow vocabulary and knowledge
- Bond and provide enriching engagement
- Foster a love of books and learning



Did you know?

About **85%** of brain development happens in the first 5 years of life. Reading in these critical years significantly influences a child's lifelong capacity to learn.

4X

Students who are not proficient readers by 3rd grade are **4 times** more likely to drop out of high school.

48%

Only **48%** of young children in the U.S. are read to each day.

3

By **age 3**, a child's brain has nearly reached its adult weight.

Read Right from the Start



R

Repeat books

- Repeat each book 3-5 times over the course of several days
- For reads 1 and 2, talk about what's happening in the book
- For reads 3 and 4, talk about how the characters feel and what they think about what's happening
- For read 5, ask "Why" questions and let your child talk about the book

E

Engage and enjoy

- Have fun
- Use gestures, actions and sounds
- Use silly voices
- Let your child make motions and sounds with you

A

Ask questions

- Ask "Why" questions
- Encourage your child to talk
- Listen to what your child has to say
- Even if your children can't talk yet, they can listen

D

Do more

- Make the book come alive
- Create activities at home to go along with the book
- Visit places and learn more information about concepts in the book
- Help your child make connections between the book and the activities

Research shows that reading with your child—not to them—greatly increases children's language and literacy, and puts them on a path to grade level reading.

Watch this video about how to "READ" with your child and try it at home:

<http://bit.ly/2IFnben>

**Contact your child's preschool teacher
for more information and support for your child.**

"READ" is from the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy, 2017 (www.readrightfromthestart.org). Used with permission.

Online Resources

ABCya

ABCya! is a free educational games website that offers hundreds of fun, engaging learning activities for preschool through sixth grade. A subscription is required for use on mobile devices.
abcya.com

Funbrain.com

Funbrain.com offers free educational games and books that develop skills in math, reading, problem-solving and literacy.
www.funbrain.com

Kids and Family Reading Report

Learn what U.S. parents and children have to say about their attitudes and behaviors around reading books for fun.
scholastic.com/readingreport/

Michigan Department of Education– Early Literacy Initiative

This webpage provides an overview of the state's Early Literacy Initiative legislation.
<http://bit.ly/2l4mHRB>

Reading Bright Start

Includes milestones, a literacy screener and activities to support parents and children at different ages and levels.
www.readingbrightstart.org

Reading Rockets

Reading Rockets offers information and resources on how young children learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help.
www.Readingrockets.org

Ready4K

3 text messages a week with facts, tips, and growth ideas. Other grades coming.
ready4k.parentpowered.com

St. Clair County Library System

Includes free online resources, EBooks, audiobooks and more with your library card.
www.sccl.lib.mi.us

Scholastic BookFLIX

BookFLIX pairs classic fictional video storybooks from Weston Woods with nonfiction eBooks from Scholastic.
bkflix.grolier.com

Starfall

Starfall helps children learn to read with phonics through interactive audiovisual activities.
starfall.com

Storyline Online

The site streams imaginatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations.
storylineonline.net



Phonemic Awareness Activities

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and distinguish sounds.

QR codes link to a video example of the activity



When reading a rhyming book, have your child **say the rhyming word at the end of each line.**



Play the "Silly Name Game." Replace the first letter of each family member's name with a different letter. For example, 'Park' for 'Mark,' 'Bollin' for 'Collin,' 'Belly' for 'Shelly,' etc.



Prompt your child to say rhymes. Ask, "Can you tell me a word that rhymes with 'cat'?"



Sing rhyming songs and nursery rhymes such as "Baa, Baa Black Sheep," "Itsy Bitsy Spider," "Humpty Dumpty," "Row Row Row Your Boat," and "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."



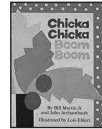
While at your house, on a walk, or in the car, **point to objects and have your child name the sounds of the objects.** For example, point to a bird and ask the child to say the beginning sound, /b/.

Read rhyming books over and over again.



Explain that rhymes are words that sound the same at the end.

Choose books with rhyming words and words with different sounds:



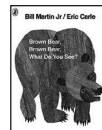
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault

- Have your child repeat the rhyming words



Silly Sally by Audrey Wood

- Replace Silly Sally with your child's name. Have your child find a word that begins with the same beginning sound. Example: Jumping Josie, Wiggling Will, Happy Henry



Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle

- Talk to your child about the beginning sounds of the words they hear in the book



Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino

- While reading, point out the rhyming words in the book. As you read, emphasize the rhyming words with your voice to help make it clear.



Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear? by Nancy White Carlstrom

- Read the book. Create silly rhyming sentences together. Example: (Insert child's name) Bear, what will you wear? I can wear pants while I dance



I Know a Wee Piggy by Kim Norman (Imagination Library book)

- Ask your child to pick out the rhyming words on each page. Occasionally stop at the end of the line so your child can guess the next word



Phonics Activities

Phonics is the ability to understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent.

QR codes link to a video example of the activity

Have a letter sound of the day (for example, talk about the /s/ sound all day—sun, sand, summer). Play I Spy using the letter for that day.



Use letter/picture cards. **Play Memory, Go Fish, or play other games with the cards.** Ask your child to say the letter and the sound (for example, the /d/ sound for a picture of a doll).



Teach your child to recognize the letter sound in their name and compare it to other words. For example, /t/ is for Tyler and table.

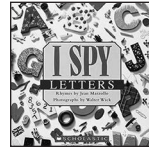


Write letters on pieces of paper and put them in a plastic bag. Let your child reach into the bag and take out a letter. Have your child say the sounds that match the letters.



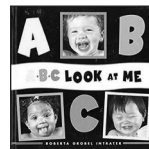
Put letters on a piece of paper and on objects (for example, Matchbox cars). Say a letter, have your child **drive the cars over the matching letter**, and have them say the letters and sounds aloud.

Choose books that focus on letter recognition:



I Spy Letters by Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick

- As your child plays I Spy throughout the book, help connect the letter with the sound it makes



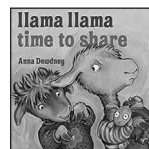
ABC Look at Me by Roberta Grobel Intrater (Imagination Library book)

- As you read, find the letters in your child's name and say the sounds they make



Alphabet Under Construction by Denise Fleming

- After you read, create your own letters with objects you find around the house (for example, cut up a piece of yarn or a drinking straw and use the pieces to make letters). Talk about the sounds the letters make



Llama, Llama Time to Share by Anna Dewdney (Imagination Library)

- Use small sticky notes to label the pictures (stove, blocks, etc.). Have your child use the labels to identify the beginning letters and sounds of the words

Teach your child to match the letters in his or her name with the sounds in his or her name.

Make alphabet letters out of Play-doh®.



Fluency Activities

Fluency is the ability to read with sufficient speed to support understanding.

QR codes link to a video example of the activity

Create a picture book for your child to practice “reading.” Add your child’s name to the book. This builds confidence and helps your child identify themselves as a reader.

Re-read books multiple times. After reading a few times, have your child “read/re-tell” the book to you. Do the same with your child’s favorite nursery rhymes or songs. This will help build familiar phrases in speech.

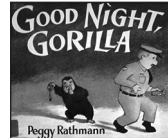


While reading a story with your child, **use verbal and facial expressions corresponding to the dialogue.** Use different voices for the characters. Encourage your child to do the same. Talk to your child about the conversation; what does the expression mean?

Encourage your child to sing favorite songs and repeat favorite lines of songs.

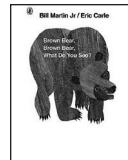
Recite nursery rhymes and poems to build familiar phrases in speech.

Choose books your child can “read” on their own:



Good Night Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann (Imagination Library)

- This wordless book allows your child to “read” the story independently. Allow them to tell the story based on the pictures they see



Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.

- After reading this book a few times, have your child “read” the book on their own using the pictures as a guide to the next animal



The Little Mouse, the Red, Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear by Don Wood

- While reading the book, act out different pages of the book, using voices and silly facial expressions



Just One More by Jennifer Hansen Rolli (Imagination Library)

- After reading the book, have your child finish “reading” each page using the pictures as a guide



Go Away, Big Green Monster! by Ed Emberley

- Try “echo reading” with your child. Read one sentence and then have your child echo (repeat) the sentence back to you. Do this for the entire book until they feel confident reading the book to you



Vocabulary Activities

Vocabulary is students' knowledge of and memory for word meanings.

QR codes link to a video example of the activity

Have conversations with your child and expand their sentences by using bigger words.

Sing songs and talk about what the words mean (move and act the song out).

Find interesting words and ask your child to guess their meaning.



Play "categories" with your child.

Pick a category such as "park" and ask your child to name words related to that topic. This is a great way to build word knowledge. Ask your child to use their senses to describe what they see, touch, hear, taste, and smell at the park.



Discuss positional words such as beside, below, inside, under, and over. Make this into a game while playing outside or at the park. For example, ask your child to sit on the swing, go under the bridge, sit beside the slide, jump over the stick, etc.



Talk about related words. When you read a book about a specific topic, ask your child to tell you words related to the book. For example, when reading a book about snow, they might say snowman, cold, jacket, gloves, hat, and play. Add other words to expand on what they say.



Compare how things are similar and how things are different. For example, how is a tree similar to a flower, and how is a tree different from a flower? Other examples might be apple vs. orange and tennis ball vs. basketball.

Choose books slightly above your child's reading level:



We're Going On a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

- Talk about positional words—over, under, around, through



Caterina and the Lemonade Stand by Erin Eitter Kono (Imagination Library book)

- Talk about the highlighted words—what do they mean, what other words could they use



"Slowly, Slowly, Slowly," Said the Sloth by Eric Carle

- Before reading, scan for new words that might be interesting to your child.



Tarra & Bella by Carol Buckley (Imagination Library book)

- Have your child list as many words as they can about animals. Help them expand the word list



Use the language of books such as author, title, illustrator, and title page.



Discuss ordinal words such as first, last, beginning, and middle.



Comprehension Activities

Comprehension is the ability to understand and draw meaning from text.

QR codes link to a video example of the activity

Read the same book multiple times. After your child knows the book, have them re-tell the story while flipping through the pages and looking at the pictures. They can also use props or stuffed animals to help re-tell the story or their favorite part of the story.

Use the questions listed on the interior flaps of your child's Imagination Library books, or ask your own.



Everyday comprehension: Ask your child who, what, when, where, why, and how questions about an event in their day. For example, after your child builds with blocks, ask, "Who built the tower? What did you use to build the tower? How did you build the tower?"



Before reading: Look at the title and cover of the book with your child and have them predict what they think the story will be about.

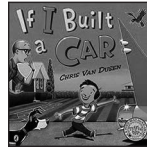


During reading: While reading a book, stop now and then to ask your child to tell you what has happened so far or what they think will happen next. Also, have your child come up with solutions to problems that arise in the story.



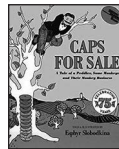
After reading: Ask your child to re-tell the story from the beginning. Have them tell you their opinions of the book and make connections from the book to their life experiences.

Choose books that allow you and your child to have a conversation:



If I Built A Car by Chris Van Dusen (Imagination Library book)

- After reading the book, talk about what the child in the book did, and ask your child what they would add to the car



Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

- After reading the book, act out different parts of the story with your child



Ladybug Girl and Bingo by David Soman and Jacky Davis (Imagination Library)

- While reading, stop and ask your child to make predictions about what will happen next



Clark the Shark by Bruce Hale

- After reading the book, ask your child to make connections from the book to their life experiences



Writing Activities

Writing is the act of using written words to communicate ideas. Our youngest learners begin “playing” with ideas as they talk and listen to stories. They explore written elements of writing as they make squiggles and begin to record “letter-like” forms.

QR codes link to a video example of the activity



Talk, talk, talk with your child. Talk about your everyday family activities, describe what’s happening outside, and talk about where you’re going while in the car or on the bus. Ask your child to talk about their day. Encourage them to explain something they did.



Story Talk. Think aloud about a story. Talking about stories helps children develop their vocabularies, link stories to everyday life, and use their knowledge about the world to make sense of stories. Connect your story to a similar situation your child has experienced and help them tell their story.



Making Early Marks. For any child to write meaningfully, they must first build up their fine motor skills. Art projects, working with play dough, stringing Cheerios, and measuring and pouring sand and water are excellent ways to improve fine motor skills.



Scribbles to Stick Figures. Create writing stations. Keep markers, crayons, pencils, and paper in places around your home.



Drawing Shapes. Point out shapes in the house and try to draw them together (be encouraging).



Tracing. Trace and say letters. Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter’s sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.



Drawing Pictures of Real People, Objects, and Events. Encourage all efforts. Let your child tell you what they made. Hang your child’s art in their room or on the refrigerator.



Drawing Pictures That Tell a Story. Ask your child to dictate a story to you. It could include any memory or activity. Have them draw their story. When their drawing is finished, ask them to retell the story.



Recognizing Letters. Write your child’s name so they can look at it often. Talk about the letters in your child’s name.



Encourage your child. When children begin to write, they risk criticism, and it takes courage to continue. Our job as parents is to help children find courage. We can do it by expressing our appreciation for their efforts.



Recognize names and some words. Help your child identify words they recognize in magazines, books, or online. Talk about what you notice and the similarities and differences in the known words.



Writing Activities

QR codes link to a video example of the activity



Write letters in their name. Help your child write their first name. Encourage them to copy it. When your child says they can write their name alone, let them. Encourage all efforts. Let them know how proud of their attempts you are. Be sure to provide a choice of materials for them to practice writing their name.



Write other letters and words. Talk about letters and sounds. Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter, which makes the sound Mmmmm. Can you write that letter?"



Encourage your child to help you make your grocery shopping list. Ask what letters or symbols go with the sounds of the words you put on your list. For example, "What sound do you hear at the beginning of milk? And what letter makes that sound? Would you like to make that M for me, please?"



Encourage your child to help you create a menu when guests come for dinner.



Show enthusiasm. Keep your child writing and drawing by showing how much you like their work. Praise their efforts, and show you care by hanging their creations on your fridge or another place in the home. Be sure to ask them to "read" you what they've written or write a story together. Carry writing materials with you everywhere you go so you can write together when waiting in line or at the doctor's office.



Model writing. Let your child watch you write notes, create shopping lists, and doodle.



Draw a family portrait. Help your child create a family portrait using a chalkboard or family message board. Have fun and encourage your child's creativity.



Create a trip journal. Preserve memories and document your family's adventures in a trip journal. Write details about your day and paste photographs into the journal. Include everyday events such as a trip to the market or a visit to the park.



Help your child make a personal dictionary. This is a great way for children to expand their vocabulary. Fold several sheets of paper into a booklet. Help your children write new words they learn at the top of each page. Encourage them to draw a picture of each word.



Help children understand that stories come from real people and events. Children hear the storyteller's voice when they listen to stories, which helps them hear the words when they learn to read aloud and read silently.

Every Day COUNTS!



Why it's important for your child to be in school

Attending school regularly may be the single most important factor in your child's success.

Being in school every day gives your child **educational opportunities** they would otherwise miss.

Being on time every day is just as important as being in school every day. Tardiness can lead to poor attendance.

What families can do to promote good school attendance



Set a regular bed time and morning routine.

Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.



Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick.



Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.



Talk to teachers for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning, if he or she seems anxious about going to school



Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.

Make school a family priority!



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RESA

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