

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Building Early Reading Skills



Haddon Township School District

Reading Aloud

The 1985 report, *Becoming a Nation of Readers*, concluded, “the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.”

Ways to Talk About Books

1. *Make Connections* – “This reminds me of when our picnic got rained out!”
2. *Share Opinions* – “I don’t think that was a good choice for Curious George to make.”
3. *Make Predictions* – Some stories follow predictable patterns and some have a surprise at the end. Encourage your child to guess what’s going to happen next.
4. *Make Inferences* – “How do you think Piggie is feeling? How do you know?”

Getting the Most out of Read Aloud Time

1. There are many apps and websites that read books and your children may enjoy them, but NOTHING can replace you.
2. Read favorite stories over and over again.
3. Let your child “read” the book once they’ve memorized it or parts of it. Pointing to one word while saying one word is a critical early reading skill. Let your child be in charge of handling the book and turning the pages.
4. Make connections to things you’ve read even when you’re not reading.

Ways to Find Books

1. Find book lists based on themes/topics:
<https://www.themeasuredmom.com/the-best-book-lists-for-early-childhood/>
2. Best picture book lists:
<http://time.com/100-best-childrens-books/>

Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness is the ability to identify and manipulate words, syllables and sounds in spoken language. These skills are the building blocks of reading.

Ways to Build Phonological Awareness

1. *Talking* - Having conversations with your child not only builds their vocabulary, but also their awareness of sounds and words.
2. *Reading Aloud* – Among other benefits, children hear the “tune” of written language.
3. *Rhyming Books and Songs* – Rhyming helps children learn how language works and be more tuned in to differences and similarities between words. This is a crucial skill when learning to read and spell.

Rhyming Tips

1. Your child will likely need lots of modeling to grasp this skill.
2. Be patient.
3. Make it fun.
4. No written print needs to be involved. This is all auditory.
5. Don't worry if your child is still figuring this out when it's time to start Kindergarten.

Rhyming Activities

1. Find rhyming objects.
2. Draw rhyming things (Pictionary style).
3. Make up your own verses to rhyming songs.

Some Rhyming Songs

1. *Willoughby, Wallaby, Woo*
Singable Songs for the Very Young; Raffi
2. *Down By the Bay*
Singable Songs for the Very Young; Raffi
3. *Apples and Bananas*
One Light, One Sun; Raffi
4. *The Corner Grocery Story*
The Corner Grocery Store; Raffi
5. *This Old Man*
Top 25 Children's School & Playground Songs; All 4 Kids
6. *A Hunting We Will Go*
25 Songs for Kids; Mezza Kids
7. *My Aunt Came Back*
Camp Song Sing-Along Collection, Vol. 6, Little Happy Campers;
MCM46 Melinda Carroll Music for Girls

Some Rhyming Books

1. *Room on the Broom*
by Julia Donaldson
2. *Sheep in a Jeep*
by Nancy E. Shaw
3. *The Gruffalo*
by Julia Donaldson
4. *Goodnight Moon*
by Margaret Wise Brown
5. *Little Blue Truck*
by Alice Shertle
6. *Llama, Llama, Red Pajama*
by Anna Dewdney
7. *Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom*
by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault

The Alphabet

Letters

1. Sing the alphabet. / Sing the alphabet while pointing to each letter. / Recite the alphabet.
2. Start with letters in your child's name. Once those letters are mastered, you can move on to names of important people and things (Mommy, teddy, etc.).
3. Play with letters (magnets, stickers, puzzles, blocks, beanbags). Talk about their shapes. Talk about which ones look alike.
4. Match uppercase and lowercase letters. (Again, focus on just a few at a time).
5. Play "Go Fish" type games with cards, tossing beanbags, or alphabet blocks. ("Toss me the S." / "Let's put the P on top of the Q. Can you hand me the P?")
6. Find letters in books you read ("Today we're looking for all of the A's." / "Let's see if there are more M's or N's on this page.")
7. Read alphabet books.

Sounds

1. Find objects that all start with the same sound.
2. Cut out pictures of things that start with the same sound and glue them on one page labeled with the letter that most often makes that sound (build your own alphabet book). Either skip the vowels or make sure to keep long and short vowel sounds separate (you could make a page for long e and another page for short e).
3. Print beginning sound coloring pages if your child likes coloring. (www.themeasuredmom.com/free-beginning-sounds-coloring-pages/)
4. Play "I Spy" in the car. ("I spy with my little eye, something that starts with /g/. Yes, it's grass! In fact, it's green grass. They both start with /g/.")

I Can...

REMEMBER: These skills are not listed in order of importance and your child does not need to know all of these things before beginning Kindergarten. Start by crossing out the items on the list that your child can already do. Then, choose a few you want to work on before September.

1. Read my name.
2. Write my name.
3. Name some capital letters: _____

4. Name some lowercase letters: _____

5. Say the sounds that some letters make: _____

6. Listen to a book being read to me and talk about it.
7. Read a favorite book from memory.
8. Turn the pages of a book.
9. Recognize rhyming words in songs and books.
10. Notice when some things start with the same sound.