



BUILDING LITERACY SKILLS AT HOME



It is never too early (or late) to start doing literacy activities with your child. Strong literacy skills are essential for development and provide a foundation for school and work performance, social skills, and solving problems in all subject areas. Just a few minutes spent each day on simple literacy activities can add up to a lifelong love of reading and learning! These literacy-based activities are great for your newborn, toddler, or preschool age child.

READING



READ EVERY DAY!

Short books with rhythmic patterns and rhyming words are fun. This can be a special time to bond with your baby and help develop their language skills.



SPEAK DIRECTLY TO YOUR BABY.

When they communicate with you through cries or coos, respond directly to them with smiles and encouragement.



SING SONGS.

Babies enjoy the rhythms and melodies of music — lullabies, your favorite songs, nursery rhymes set to music, or any songs will do!



WALK AND TALK.

On walks around the house, yard, or community, talk to them about what you see. Point to objects and describe it to your child.



USE SIGN LANGUAGE.

Learn and use signs for words your child may need to communicate (more, drink, go, etc.).





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READING

READ EVERY DAY!

Getting into the habit of reading every day for at least a few minutes is helpful for your child's development.

THINK ALOUD AS YOU READ.

Point out what you see in the pictures. Read with expression so your child can see and hear joy for reading.

ASK QUESTIONS.

Use the 5W strategy - Who, What, When, Where, Why? If you don't know the answer, work together to look it up and learn.

WRITING, DRAWING, & CREATING

EXPLORE FEELINGS.

Creativity and ideas can be expressed by drawing pictures.

BE CREATIVE.

Paper, crayons, markers, glue, and even household items like noodles, boxes, and sponges can be great tools for creativity.

PAINT WITH WATER.

Get a clean paintbrush and small bucket of plain water. Go outside and let your child paint the walls, sidewalk, or fence.

TELL STORIES WITH PROPS.

Puppets, socks, and household items can all be great props for story-telling.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

BUILD VOCABULARY.

Talk with your child about everything. Describe the world around them in real (adult) terms.

EXPLORE RHYMES AND SONGS.

These can expose new words and develop speaking skills.

USE SIGN LANGUAGE.

Learn and use signs for words your child may need to communicate (more, drink, go etc.).

TALK THROUGH THE DAY.

Encourage your child to speak by asking lots of questions and narrating experiences. Say things like "We're getting in the car now to go to the grocery store! I'm turning the car on, and now we're driving." "Do you know the name of this fruit? It's a banana."





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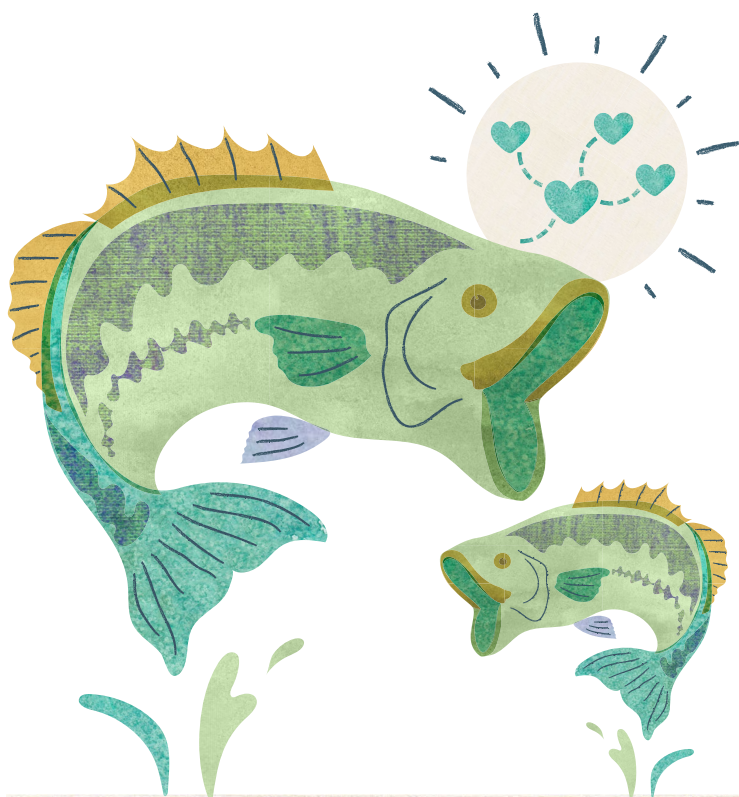
READING

READ EVERY DAY!

Getting into the habit of reading every day for at least a few minutes is helpful for your child's development.

THINK ALOUD AS YOU READ.

Point out what you see in the pictures. Talk to your children about what you are reading. What did they like about the story? What didn't they like?



WRITING, DRAWING, & CREATING

EXPLORE FEELINGS.

Creativity and ideas can be expressed by drawing pictures.

BE CREATIVE.

Paper, crayons, markers, glue, and even household items like noodles, boxes, and sponges can be great tools for creativity.

MAKE STORIES.

Encourage your child to "tell stories" to you. Write their story down for them in a booklet (just a few pages of stapled paper is fine!), and have them illustrate their story.

PLAY "FIRST, NEXT, LAST."

Have pictures of different scenes from stories you read, and have your child sequence the events using the pictures. Have them retell the story.

PAINT WORDS WITH WATER.

Get a clean paintbrush and small bucket of plain water. Go outside and let your child paint letters or words on the walls, sidewalk, or fence.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

BUILD VOCABULARY.

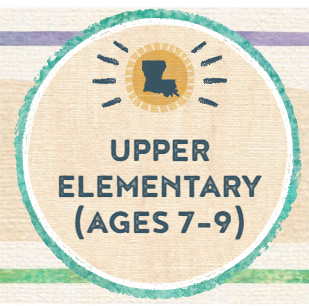
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BUILDING LITERACY SKILLS AT HOME



Literacy based activities should be encouraged at home for all ages. Between the ages of 7-9, children's reading fluency is improving, and they are becoming increasingly capable of reading books independently. This is an exciting time for early readers who are eager to practice their new reading skills, and supporting their growing reading independence is a way that families can nurture a love of reading and learning. These literacy activities are great for upper elementary students.

READING



BUILD A HOME LIBRARY.

Include books about topics your child is interested in, popular book series, and also books that may be unfamiliar to your child to expand interests.



PRACTICE STORIES FROM SCHOOL.

If your child comes home with a decodable story (one they have learned in class and has words that can be sounded out), encourage them to practice reading it independently. Re-reading familiar stories is a great way to build reading fluency.



SUPPORT GROWING SKILLS.

Listen to them read books that you have in your home, and provide support when they are struggling to decode (sound out) a word. If they don't know the sounds, it's ok to tell them the word!



ENCOURAGE CHOICES.

Allowing your child to choose books they want to read can help foster a love for reading.



MIX IN MOVIES.

Suggest books from movies your child likes. They may enjoy getting the additional details that the book provides.

WRITING & DRAWING



KEEP IN TOUCH.

Suggest that your child send notes to family members or relatives via snail-mail or email.



JOURNAL.

Provide your child with a decorative notebook and pen, and encourage them to share a few sentences about their day.



PRACTICE HANDWRITING.

Children need regular practice writing with a pen and paper to improve their handwriting, including cursive.



ENHANCE TYPING SKILLS.

Use free typing classes and websites to support your child with this important life skill.

SPEAKING & LISTENING



LISTEN TO AUDIO BOOKS.

Listening to a novel that appeals to the whole family is a great way to engage in family book discussions.



TALK ABOUT IT.

Ask them their opinions of a book they are reading and help them make real-world connections to what they are reading.

CREATING



PLAY GAMES.

Games like Scrabble, Boggle, and many other board games require reading skills.



BRING STORIES TO LIFE.

Encourage your child to use technology to create digital stories or animations.





BUILDING LITERACY SKILLS AT HOME



Literacy based activities should be encouraged at home during middle and high school. Strong literacy skills are essential for development and provide a foundation for school and work performance, social skills, and solving problems in all subject areas. Just a few minutes spent each day on simple literacy activities can add up to a lifelong love of reading and learning. These literacy-based activities are great for your middle and high school children.

READING

♥ READ TOGETHER.

Establish a family culture of reading by designating times for all family readers to read.

♥ START A FAMILY BOOK CLUB.

Read a book as a family and engage in discussions around the story.

♥ PROMOTE CHOICE.

Allowing your child to choose books they want to read can help foster a love for reading.

♥ MIX IN MOVIES.

Suggest books from movies your child likes. They may enjoy getting the additional details that the book provides.



WRITING & DRAWING

♥ KEEP IN TOUCH.

Suggest that your child send notes to family members or relatives via snail-mail or email.

♥ ENHANCE TYPING SKILLS.

Use free typing classes and websites to support your child with this important life skill.

♥ USE TECHNOLOGY.

Let your child utilize speech-to-text programs and applications to write stories, complete homework assignments, or other writing tasks if they find writing challenging.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

♥ LISTEN TO AUDIO BOOKS.

Listening to a novel that appeals to the whole family is a great way to engage in family book discussions.

♥ TALK ABOUT IT.

Ask them their opinions of a book they are reading and help them make real-world connections to what they are reading.

♥ READ TO OTHERS.

Encourage your middle or high schooler to read to a younger sibling or family member.

CREATING

♥ PLAY GAMES.

Games like Scrabble, Boggle, and many other board games require reading skills.

♥ DOWNLOAD APPS.

Apps like ReadWorks and ReadWriteThink can support students with literacy in creative ways.

♥ BRING STORIES TO LIFE.

Encourage your child to use technology to create digital stories or animations.