



# PRESCHOOL LITERACY INSTRUCTION



Albemarle County Public Schools' preschool programs are specifically designed to serve the most at-risk four-year-olds in our community. This is made possible through a grant partnership between ACPS, the VDOE-Virginia Preschool Initiative, and the Special Education program, ensuring that we understand and cater to the unique needs of these children.

All preschool classrooms use a VDOE and Albemarle County School Board vetted and approved literacy resource called *Teaching Strategies: The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* as our core program to help guide, support and assess our literacy instruction. This student-centered curriculum allows students to deeply investigate various topics young children encounter in their daily lives.

At the core of all preschool literacy instruction, teachers work daily to develop valuable dispositions of early literacy through thoughtful and intentional teaching. If you visit any ACPS preschool classroom, you will see daily activities that work to cultivate the following dispositions in our youngest learners.

- ❖ Desire to be read to
- ❖ Willingness to listen to stories
- ❖ Enjoyment of songs, poems, rhymes, books, and use of dramatic play
- ❖ Exploration of print forms
- ❖ Exploration of spoken language and oral communication skills
- ❖ Curiosity about words, letters, and how they work together
- ❖ Playfulness with words
- ❖ Creativity with writing

When children can demonstrate these dispositions, they are successfully prepared to begin more formal reading instruction when they enter kindergarten.

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The table below demonstrates the types of learning activities all ACPS preschool students engage in daily and how these activities align with and develop the 5 Essential Components of Effective Literacy outlined in the Science of Reading research, reinforcing the effectiveness of our program.

| Essential Early Learning PreK Teaching Strategies      | Science of Reading: 5 Essential Components of Effective Literacy Instruction |
|--|--|
| <a href="#">Rich Teacher Talk</a>                      | Vocabulary Development   |
| <a href="#">Storybook Read Alouds</a>                  | Comprehension Development  |
| <a href="#">Phonological Awareness Activities</a>      | Phonemic Awareness Development   |
| <a href="#">Alphabet Activities</a>                    | Phonics Development  |
| <a href="#">Shared Book Experiences</a>                | Comprehension & Vocabulary Development                                       |
| <a href="#">Integrated, Content-Focused Activities</a> | Comprehension & Vocabulary Development                                       |
| <a href="#">Emergent Writers Activities</a>            | Phonics & Comprehension Development  |
| <a href="#">Emergent Reading Activities</a>            | Fluency Development  |

*To better understand a child's literacy learning experience, you can learn more about each of the 8 strategies that are routinely used in our classrooms by scanning the QR code below.*

**SCAN**  
to view  
strategies

