Development of Literacy

Learning the rules of written language is the heart of becoming a skilled reader.

The Take-Home

Literacy is an important skill for children to learn. Over time, reading becomes one way that children learn new information.

Science Says

• Literacy is an important part of daily life. It empowers a child’s educational, societal, and civic development.
• Effective methods of teaching children how to read include explicit instruction in phonological awareness. Phonological awareness is the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds in language.
• Some children have difficulty learning to read. Research tells us that it is important to identify struggling readers early on and to provide them with extra support.
• Early intervention helps struggling children build foundational skills and improve their reading ability. Effective programs combine the school, home, and community.

Try it at Home

• If your child is struggling to learn to read, talk to the school’s speech language pathologist, reading specialist, or your child’s teacher and express your concerns.
• Try taking turns when reading aloud to each other. This supports a new reader through modeling and working together to sound our words.
• Explore the library with your child. Browse or check out age and developmentally appropriate books. Ask a librarian to help you find fun, new books!

Want to Learn More?

modules.ilabs.uw.edu/module/development-of-literacy/
Questions?: ilabsout@uw.edu
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