

# Foundations of Literacy

Children's reading skills are built on the foundation of spoken language skills.



## SHARE THE LOVE

Young children learn about language and communication through social interactions with other people. These skills are critical to building a foundation for literacy.



### TRY THIS!

Be a reading role model. What are your reading habits? If you enjoy newspapers and magazines, use your child's interest in pictures to start a conversation. At mealtimes, follow your favorite recipes and read menus together.



## READ THE ROOM

The human brain is not born ready to read. With training and practice, our brain can learn to recognize words, match words to sounds, and associate words with meaning.



### TRY THIS!

Reading with children boosts literacy skills. Make reading a fun part of your daily routine! Act out the story by experimenting and making silly sounds. Ask open-ended questions like, "What do you think will happen next?"



## WORD PLAY

Phonological awareness and letter knowledge are critical pre-literacy skills. Phonological awareness involves identifying and manipulating language sounds.

C - A - T

### TRY THIS!

Rhyming games, stories, and songs can emphasize ways to play with words and sound combinations. These activities strengthen children's pre-literacy skills. It's fine to be silly - made-up words work just as well as real ones!

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