

Learning to read *begins* before children start school. Help your children develop early literacy skills now; this makes it easier for children to learn to read once they begin school.

Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are:



Learn how to help your child get ready to read with simple activities such as the ones suggested here.

Find more ideas at your library.

Every Child Ready to Read[®] is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

www.everychildreadytoread.org

Fun with Letters

Sandpaper Letters

Cut letters out of sandpaper. Make them about three inches tall, so your child can play with them, feel their contours, and learn about letterforms. You can also make touch-friendly letters out of foam sheets from the craft store, felt, play dough, or corrugated cardboard. Encourage your child to touch the letters, play with them, and explore the alphabet.

Name Games

Find as many ways as you can think of to play with the sounds and letters of your child's name. Help your child find the letters of his name in his collection of cutouts or letter magnets. Help him write each letter and hear the sound it makes in his name.

My Very Own ABCs

Make an alphabet book. Clip pictures from magazines to illustrate each letter or create your own pictures. Decorate with markers, glitter, fancy paper, feathers and sequins, stencils, and stamps—whatever makes playing with letters fun.

Magnetic Letters

Your child can use inexpensive alphabet magnets to spell his or her name and the names of other important people in his or her life. Focus on one letter each day and spell words that begin or end with that letter. Introduce a "new word of the day" and talk about its meaning. Spell simple messages for your child to read.