



Pre-K

The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading. You can't start reading to a child too soon!

- **Read together every day.**

Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close together. Bedtime is an especially great time for reading together.

- **Give everything a name.**

You can build comprehension skills early, even with the littlest child. Play games that involve naming or pointing to objects. Say things like, "Where's your nose?" and then, "Where's Mommy's nose?" Or touch your child's nose and say, "What's this?"

- **Say how much you enjoy reading together.**

Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Look forward to this time you spend together. Talk about "story time" as the favorite part of your day.

- **Read with fun in your voice.**

Read to your child with humor and expression. Use different voices for different characters. Ham it up!

- **Know when to stop.**

If your child loses interest or has trouble paying attention, just put the book away for a while. Don't continue reading if your child is not enjoying it.

- **Be interactive.**

Engage your child so he or she will actively listen to a story. Discuss what's happening, point out things on the page, and answer your child's questions. Ask questions of your own and listen to your child's responses.

- **Read it again and again and again.**

Your child will probably want to hear a favorite story over and over. Go ahead and read the same book for the 100th time! Research suggests that repeated readings help children develop language skills.

- **Talk about writing, too.**

Draw your child's attention to the way writing works. When looking at a book together, point out how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.

- **Point out print everywhere.**

Talk about the written words you see in the world around you and respond with interest to your child's questions about words. Ask him or her to find a new word every time you go on an outing.

- **Get your child evaluated if you suspect a problem.**

Please be sure to see your child's pediatrician or teacher as soon as possible if you have concerns about his or her language development, hearing, or sight.

1. Writing

- Help your child practice writing letters, especially the letters in his/her name.
- Teach your child how to write his/her name with an uppercase first letter and the remaining letters in lowercase.
- Write in shaving cream in the bathtub, salt or sugar in a cake pan or in finger paint to make practicing more fun and multisensory.

2. Letter Recognition

- Play games to help your child recognize some letters of the alphabet.
- Play hide and seek with refrigerator magnets.
- Rather than drilling your child with flashcards, use them to play a game of alphabet go fish.

3. Beginning Sounds

- Make your child aware of the sound that each letter makes.
- Find items around the house that begin with the same sound and identify the letter that makes each sound.
- Overemphasize the first sound in words to help your child hear the individual sounds in words.

4. Number Recognition and Counting

- Count throughout the day (for example, the crackers he/she is eating for snack or the socks in that you take out of the dryer).
- Point out numbers you see in your environment and have your child name them (for example, the numbers found on food boxes or street signs).

5. Shapes and Colors

- If your child is having trouble recognizing certain colors, you might add a little food coloring to cookie dough, milk or vanilla pudding to emphasize those colors.
- Help your child recognize more difficult shapes such as diamonds and rectangles by showing him/her how to draw them on paper and cut them out.
- Play games in which your child finds objects of particular colors and shapes around the house or in the neighborhood as you drive.

6. Fine Motor Skills

- Give your child several different writing options (colored pencils, crayons or markers) to help keep him/her interested in writing and drawing.
- Playing with play dough is a fun way to strengthen the muscles of the hand that will be used for writing.

7. Cutting

- Purchase a good pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice.
- Give him/her old magazines or newspapers to cut up, or allow her to make a collage of the things he/she likes by cutting them from magazines and gluing them to a piece of paper.
- Cutting play dough is also fun for children.

8. Reading Readiness

- Run your finger under the words as you read to your child to help him/her learn that words go from left to right and top to bottom.
- Play games with rhyming words to help your child hear similar sounds in words. For example, as you are going up the stairs, name one word that rhymes with cat for each step as you go up.

9. Attention and Following Directions

- Read lots of stories with your child and work up to reading longer chapter books, one chapter each night or as long as he/she remains interested and focused.
- Give your child two and three step directions. For example: "put on your pajamas, brush your teeth and pick a book to read."
- Play Simon Says with two or three step directions. For example: "Simon Says jump up and down and shout hooray."

10. Social Skills

- Give your children opportunities to interact with other children in preschool, church, social groups or play dates.
- Teach your child how to express his/her feelings if he/she doesn't like something.
- Role-play different situations he/she might experience on the playground or at school. Help him/her find solutions for typical problems he/she might encounter.



NORMANDY SCHOOLS
COLLABORATIVE
www.normandysc.org