

## Reading



When caregivers show interest in reading, it motivates children to do the same. Reading together at an early age develops language skills and fosters a love of reading!

Let your child lead! When you are getting started, it is important to make reading an enjoyable experience. Let them choose the books, read pages out of order if they want to, talk about the pictures they like, or read aloud to them while they play with a favorite toy.

Listen to an audiobook together and make facial expressions based on the characters in the story. Shared listening experiences count!

## Talking

Talking to babies and toddlers encourages brain development and helps them to learn oral language. These early speech skills are a central part of developing early reading skills.



Listen to your child and tune into what they are interested in. Talk about the garbage truck they love to watch or flip through a photo album and talk about people and places they love.

Even before your baby or toddler is speaking, respond to their babbles and coos to have a "conversation" to demonstrate communication skills and develop language understanding.

## Singing

Singing slows down language and allows children to hear words in a different way. Songs also expose children to a wider vocabulary and help develop language skills. Nursery rhymes and rhythmic songs can be part of this exposure.

Sing Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes during a diaper change or bath time. Tap or point to the body parts on your child or yourself to help make the connection.

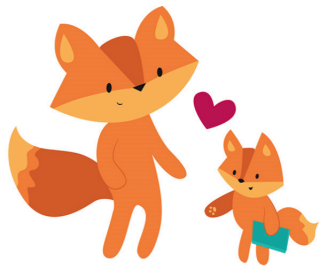


## Writing

Reading and writing go hand in hand! Writing helps children learn that letters have meaning and sound.

Encouraging fine motor skills through writing helps children to turn pages, identify and copy letters.

Have writing and coloring utensils available where they play. Color or paint a picture about the story you read or something you did together that day.



## Playing

Playing is learning! Children learn language through play and begin putting their thoughts and feelings into words.

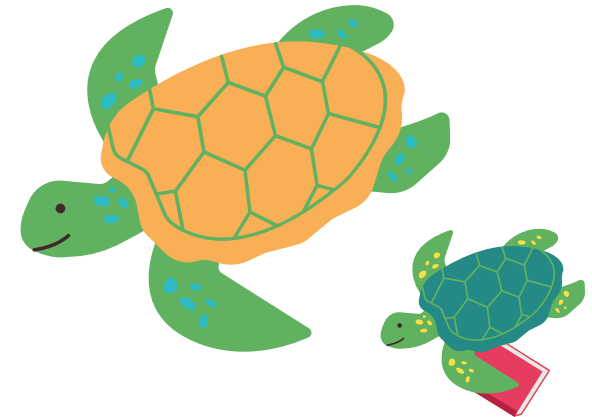
Use tactile play to introduce babies and toddlers to new sensory experiences. Water play or a small bin of sand or colored rice allows children to explore and get curious.



If you need any book suggestions please ask a children's librarian.



**Fun, easy ways to sprinkle early literacy skills into your day!**



**1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN**