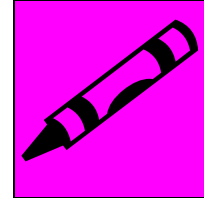


Building Early Literacy Skills

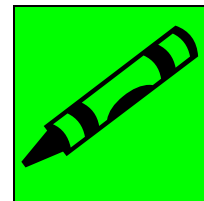
Begin reading aloud with your child at birth. Babies love hearing the sound of your voice, and this cozy time will encourage them to love books. Bedtime is a good time for many families to enjoy stories together. We call encouraging an interest in reading "**Print Motivation.**"



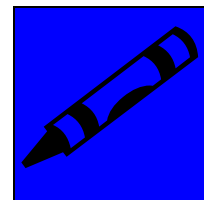
Listening to language - any language - helps babies notice the different sounds that make up words. Talk to your baby as you do household tasks. Recite nursery rhymes and sing songs. We call this developing "**Phonological Awareness.**"



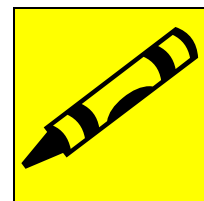
Reading also builds "**Vocabulary.**" Books use many words that are not used in everyday speech. The more words a child recognizes, the easier it will be for him or her to read them later on.



As you read, your child will begin to notice the print as well as the pictures. Run your finger under the words occasionally. Point out lettering on signs, cereal boxes, etc. Write your child's name on his bedroom door. This shows your child that the letters have meaning. We call this "**Print Awareness.**"



Sometimes a child likes to hear the same book over and over. This is a perfect time to let the *child* tell the story as you turn the pages. Talk about stories as you read - ask questions about what is happening or ask your child to predict what might happen next. We call this building "**Narrative Skills.**"



You can begin teaching your child the names of letters using alphabet books and refrigerator magnets. Playing games with concepts like "same" and "different" helps your child develop skills needed to distinguish letters, too. Keep it fun - don't drill on the letters. We call this developing "**Letter Knowledge.**"

