

## 6. Phonological Awareness (or Is that a foreign language?)

Phonological Awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate the smaller sounds in words. Phonological awareness includes the ability to hear and create rhymes, say words with sounds or chunks left out and the ability to put two word chunks together to make a word.

Most children who have difficulty in reading have trouble in phonological awareness. Strengthen phonological awareness by playing fun word games with your child:

- Make up silly words by changing the first sound in a word: milk, nilk, pilk, rilk, filk.
- Say words with a pause between the syllables ("ra" and "bit" for rabbit) and have your child guess what word you are saying.
- Read poetry or sing rhymes to your child.



## Never stop reading and writing with your kids

- Elementary School children still need to learn how to understand what they're reading.
- Middle school kids still like to be read to, so challenge them by reading higher level books.
- Teenagers will appreciate if you read their homework at the same time as they do. The books at this level are very interesting, and can act as an opening to many parent/teen conversations.

## Tuesdays are English story times!!!

### Little ones:

**When:** Tuesdays @ 10:10am

**Who:** Recommended for toddlers to 2 year olds (but all are invited to share in the fun)

**What:** For toddlers, we focus on rhyme, repetition and things that are familiar to your little one.

### Pre-school:

**When:** Tuesdays @ 10:30am

**Who:** Recommended for children 3 and up (but all are invited to share in the fun)

**What:** For pre-schoolers, we focus on narratives, real world experiences, and word play. In order to engage your pre-schooler's mind, story time also includes interactive games, educational videos and cartoons, and an after story craft time.

### Elementary school:

**When:** Tuesdays @ 6:30

**Who:** Recommended for children 5-8 (but all are invited to share in the fun)

**What:** For elementary school children, we focus on guessing games, riddles and poetry, and chapter books. Each book is serialized, so make sure to come every week in order to not miss out on any of the excitement.

## Los miércoles son los cuentos en español!!!

**Cuándo:** Miércoles @ 1:00pm

**Quién:** Bebés y niños de edad preescolar pero todas las edades están invitadas

**Qué:** Leeremos un cuentito, cantaremos y haremos un proyectito educacional y divertido que se podrán llevar a casa.



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# Early Literacy

# Information



**From birth to 3 years old, your child's brain is working overtime. What you as a parent can teach them in those years can make all the difference in school, work, and life.**

**Learn how to put your child on the right path to success.**

**Early childhood literacy** is everything children know about reading and writing before they can read or write.

- Beginning reading and writing skills take about 5 years to develop on average.
- Infants read by chewing on the corners of board books.
- Toddlers read by asking for the same story read to them over and over and over again.
- Pre-schoolers ‘read’ books by memory; making up their own stories; ‘writing’ their own stories.

### Early Literacy

There is a direct connection between children who are read aloud to and later reading success.

Children who grow up in conversational homes — with parents who talk to them and encourage them to talk — have a better chance at success than children who hear very little language.

Have fun with word games and making up silly songs and rhymes. Learning to play with words helps with later literacy skills.

### Why teach early literacy:

The development of language and literacy skills begins at birth. Children develop much of their capacity for learning in the first three years of life, when their brains grow to 90 percent of their eventual adult weight.

### How to teach early literacy:

You are a parent, not a teacher. Leave the teaching to the teachers.

The most important thing you can do to foster early literacy is provide an atmosphere that's fun, verbal, and stimulating, not school-like.

Offer your child plenty of opportunities to talk and be listened to, read and be read to, and sing and be sung to.

### Six important literacy skills

Children do not come born knowing what things are, what things do, or what’s safe and what’s dangerous. Make sure to show how reading can be a guide to the real world by exposing them to the real world.

#### 1. Vocabulary (or What’s the name of that thing?)

Vocabulary, or knowing the names of things, is an extremely important skill for children to have when they are learning to read. Most children enter school knowing between 3,000 and 5,000 words.

Help develop your child's vocabulary by reading a variety of books with him, both fiction and nonfiction, and by naming all the objects in your child's world.

Make sure to show the relationships between books and the real world. For instance, read Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax, then go outside and look at, touch, and explore some trees & leaves. Make sure to name what you’re looking at or touching.



#### 2. Print Motivation (or Woo-hoo, I love reading and writing!)

Print Motivation is a child's interest in and enjoyment of books. A child with print motivation enjoys being read to, plays with books, pretends to write, asks to be read to, and likes trips to the library.

Have fun with reading. Make reading a special time that can be shared anywhere, not just before bedtime. Children should be able to see that you, the parent, enjoy reading, too.

#### 3. Print Awareness (or What’s that weird Symbol mean?)

Print Awareness includes learning that writing in English follows basic rules such as flowing from top-to-bottom and left-to-right, and that the print on the page is what is being read. An example of print awareness is a child's ability to point to the words on the page of a book.

Your child's print awareness can be encouraged by pointing out and reading words everywhere you see them - on signs, labels, or even billboards. Following the words you’re reading on a page with your finger begins teaching them important grammar rules, too.

#### 4. Narrative Skills (or Story-telling)

Narrative Skills, or being able to understand, describe, and tell stories, are important for children to understand what they are learning to read. An example of a narrative skill is a child's ability to tell what happens at a birthday party or on a trip to the store.

Help your child strengthen her narrative skills by asking her to tell you about the book you’ve just read. Encourage your child to tell you about things she has done that have a beginning and end. Make the book be the beginning of a discussion. Try to keep it on the subject that the book is discussing.

#### 5. Letter Knowledge (or What makes what sound?)

Letter Knowledge includes learning that letters have different names, and that specific sounds go with specific letters. An example of letter knowledge is a child's ability to know both the name and sound of the letter B.

Letter knowledge can be developed by using a variety of fun reading or writing activities:

- Gently trace a letter with your finger on your infant’s tummy or back; speak the letter as well. This can also become a guessing game with older children.
- Discuss what shapes make up letter and numbers with your pre-schooler (eg an A is a triangle with two legs).