









What can I do to help my child develop pre-literacy skills?

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TIP: Dive into storytelling

-  Read lots of stories about many different topics!
-  Ask questions as you read together (e.g., “What do you think will happen next?”).
-  When you’re out running errands, talk about what you see and ask what your child notices.
-  Use car rides, dinner time, and waiting in line as chances to talk and listen to each other.
-  If your child watches TV or movies, ask them to retell the plot to you.






TIP: Grow a big vocabulary

-  Let your child learn their native/home language first. This makes learning another language easier later on.
-  Don’t be afraid to use big words when speaking with your child.
-  Help your child build context by offering to learn more about a particular topic. For example, if your child enjoys a story about dogs, take them to the library to get more dog books, go visit a dog park, or take a trip to a pet store. This will expose them to a lot of words about the same topic and help them build vocabulary.




TIP: Explore print together

-  Let your child turn the pages as you read.
-  Look at words even when you’re not reading—point out signs, labels, and lists.
-  Sometimes, point to words as you read them.

TIP: Make reading exciting

-  Build reading into your routine so that it feels special (e.g., before bedtime, when you get home from work).
-  Visit the library and join in with story time.
-  Rotate library books (or your own books) so that there’s often something new to look at.
-  Keep books down low so your child can get to them on their own.
-  Stop when it’s not fun anymore. It’s more important to enjoy reading than to read for a long time.

TIP: Play with letters

-  Find a letter as you’re playing. Ask your child to name other things that start with the same sound.
-  Help your child learn and practice the letters in their own name.
-  Don’t worry if your child mixes up similar letters (“b” and “d” for example) or if they don’t remember letters and sounds right away. That’s totally normal!