



## HELLO PARENTS,

While reading and writing are not typically taught until after preschool, children can begin developing the skills they need to become strong readers from a very young age. Early literacy skills are actually pre-literacy skills and include wanting to look at books, following narratives, recognizing print, learning vocabulary and identifying letters and sounds. In this newsletter, we will provide pre-literacy activities to build a solid foundation in early literacy and build your child's future reading performance.

## ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

### BEDTIME STORY

#### DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to read "Sleepyheads" by Sandra J. Howatt
- Use different emotions and expressive sounds while reading the story.
- As you read, let your baby look at the book to promote social development and thinking skills.
- Remember that the interaction with your baby is the key for making the most out of the bedtime story reading.

[Click here](#) to read "Ten Tiny Toes" by Todd Tarpley.

## TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

### ALPHABET SENSORY BIN

#### MATERIALS:

- Big bin
- Different loose parts such as foam alphabet letters, magnets, and puzzle pieces, etc.
- Tongs, cups
- Pebbles (optional)

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Gather your materials for the sensory bin.
- Have your child put all the materials inside the bin.
- Encourage your child to explore the materials.
- Give them the tongs and cups to scoop out the letters. For every letter your child scoops out, name the letters. For example, "You picked up the letter C".
- Practice sounding out each letter they find.

[Click here](#) to listen to "ABC Phonics" Song.

## PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

### CONNECT THE LETTERS

#### MATERIALS:

- Big sized paper
- Markers
- Tape

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Choose only 5 or 6 letters to focus on or write the same letter repeatedly down the length of the paper.
- Tape the paper to the floor and give your child markers to trace and connect the letters together.
- Sound out the letters as your child connects the letters together.
- Introduce the letters of your child's name and show them how they work together to form their name.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

## JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

### ALPHABET ROCKS

#### MATERIALS:

- Smooth stones
- Black permanent marker
- Soap and water
- Paper and pen

#### DIRECTIONS:

- When you are on a walk with your child outside, collect a variety of smooth stones.
- With your child, clean the rocks with soap and water, then dry them.
- Use your black permanent marker to write the alphabet on your rocks.
- On the paper, write a list of words or sentences.
- Ask your child to spell one of those words or sentences on the list using the alphabet rocks.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

## SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

### UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

#### MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Timer

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Ask someone in your family to write a list of words on a piece of paper, but while writing them scramble the order of the letters.
- Look at the letters of the words and try to work out what the word is.
- To make the game more challenging, set a time limit to explore the words within the list.
- Take turns writing and guessing the scrambled words.

[Click here](#) for more activities.



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### A TIP FOR TODAY

#### EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

##### Alphabet Knowledge

- Recognizing and naming upper and lower case letters and beginning to associate letters with the sounds they make.

##### Phonological Awareness

- Phonological awareness refers to the ability to manipulate the sounds that make up language.
- Learning to recognize rhyming words.
- Listening for syllables within words.
- Learning to recognize beginning sounds in words.
- Matching those sounds to letters.

##### Print Awareness

- Print awareness is the understanding of the features of books and print.
- Teach your child to recognize the parts of a book. For example: front and back covers, top and bottom.
- Learn that printed letters and words go from left to right or right to left depending on the language.
- Learn that a book has a title, was written by an author, and has illustrations that were drawn by an illustrator.