

Kindergarten Reading Readiness

What should parents know?

Print Awareness

Print Awareness is the earliest understanding that written language carries meaning. This is the foundation of all other literacy practices.

- ⇒ Reads books left to right and top to bottom
- ⇒ Responds to and labels pictures and symbols (stop signs, store names, food labels)
- ⇒ Distinguishes print from pictures

Letter Knowledge

Letter Knowledge is the ability to recognize and name the letters in the alphabet.

- ⇒ Sings the alphabet song
- ⇒ Uses a variety of activities to recognize both uppercase and lowercase letters
- ⇒ Recognizes that letters have sounds and that letter sounds can be put together to make words

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate sounds, recognize that speech is composed of sounds, and that some words rhyme.

- ⇒ Responds to and produces a variety of sounds
- ⇒ Produces and blends sounds into recognizable words
- ⇒ Compares and distinguishes sounds within words and different words
- ⇒ Attempts or is able to imitate rhyming

Writing

Writing and reading are closely linked together. All attempts at writing (scribbles, symbols, letters, pictures) are a part of the literacy learning process of communicating an idea.

- ⇒ Uses a variety of writing tools
- ⇒ Forms letters, shapes, symbols, and words with support
- ⇒ Writes name
- ⇒ Express ideas and stories through symbols, letters, and/or pictures

Comprehension

Comprehension is when a child reacts to a story or event, identifies details from a story or picture, talks about the characters and settings, retells familiar stories, and responds to stories. When children participate in "reading" or telling about an event, story, or main idea in a picture or book, they develop the ability to comprehend and answer questions about the story.

Practices at Home

- ⇒ Read to your child every day.
- ⇒ Let your child see you read every day. Children need to see adults obtaining and using information from many different sources: recipes, newspapers, manuals, websites, books, and many others.
- ⇒ Have your child "read" to you. Young children may begin "reading" by pointing to the pictures and talking about them or telling what the story is about.
- ⇒ Help your child to become aware of sounds in letters. Play games: "What sound starts with 'm'?"
- ⇒ Help your child to blend sounds to make words. "What word am I making? /c/-/a/-/t/?"
- ⇒ Find books with simple stories and help your child start to think about what he or she sees and hears. Talk with your child about what happens first, next, and last in the story.



"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

-Emilie Buchwald

