



Preparing your child for success in school and life, beginning at birth.



<p>Turn an old purse into a “Writing Briefcase.” Include paper, pencils, washable markers, magazine pictures, photos, a few stickers, etc. Encourage your child to share creations with you!</p>	<p>Make favorite rhymes part of your family rituals. Try, “To market, to market, to buy a fat pig...Home again, home again, jiggety jig” whenever you pull into the driveway or get off the bus.</p>	<p>When your child colors a picture, say, “Tell me about your picture.” Write the words they tell you and read them back to your child. Attach the written page to the picture for a friend or family member to read.</p>	<p>“Do you remember when...?” and “What do you think will happen next?” are wonderful questions to extend conversations with your child. Extended talk is an important pre-reading skill.</p>
<p>Point out the first letter of your child’s name in newspapers, magazines, signs, etc. Then ask you child to do the same.</p>	<p>Look into your child’s eyes when you talk with him/her. This helps you give your child your undivided attention.</p>	<p>Keep a laundry basket filled with dress-up items: old shirts, hats, shoes. As your child pretends, s/he is acting out imaginary stories!</p>	<p>Read aloud together every day—more than once a day! Have favorites and keep books in a special place.</p>
<p>Practice “writing” in sand, flour or shaving cream. Put a little on a cookie sheet and use fingers to make circles, draw lines and try some letters!</p>	<p>Tell the story about how your child became part of your family. S/he will be fascinated with her/his own birth or adoption story!</p>	<p>Send your child a note or postcard. Ask family members and friends to do the same.</p>	<p>Label the items in your child’s room: “bed;” “shelf;” “window;” “floor;” “chair.” This helps your child understand that words can represent objects.</p>
<p>If your child makes a request that you plan to fulfill later, write it down and tell your child, “This note will help me remember later.” Put it on a post-it note that your child can post somewhere. Notes show your child another use for written words.</p>	<p>Incorporate <u>predictions</u> into everyday conversations: “What could be inside that box?” “What do you think will happen next?” Prediction is an important pre-reading skill.</p>	<p>Eye-hand coordination is an important pre-reading skill. Give your child a small bowl of flour with spoons, funnels and cups to stir, measure and touch.</p>	<p>Before going for a walk, put a wide band of tape, sticky side out, around your child’s wrist or waist for sticking light-weight finds on the walk. Remember to talk, talk, talk! about all you are noticing.</p>

Language and Literacy Skills help prepare a child to be a successful reader.

This month’s Kindergarten Connection has a special emphasis on language and literacy skills.

These fun, easy to do activities were compiled by Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) lead teacher Marjean Altemeier.

They help your child get ready for kindergarten, building problem solving and social skills, too! Have fun playing with your child as you do these.