

What is early literacy?

Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school. Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. There are six pre-reading skills children must know in order to learn to read successfully. You can help your child learn these skills starting at birth!



Print Motivation:

A child's interest and enjoyment of books. Children who enjoy books will want to learn how to read.

- › Make book-sharing time special; a time just for you and your child.
- › Begin reading books early— even when your child is a newborn.
- › Take a break from reading if your child becomes tired, loses interest, or gets upset.

Vocabulary:

Knowing the names of things, feelings, concepts, and ideas.

- › Talk about what is going on around you. Name objects and colors you see.
- › Read fiction and non-fiction books with your child. Children's books contain more "rare" words than television programs.
- › Expand on what your child says. She says, "bug." You can say, "Yes, a little red bug. It's called a ladybug."

Phonological Awareness:

Ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.

- › Sing with your child.
- › Say nursery rhymes.
- › Read rhyming books.
- › Ask if two words rhyme: "Do 'cat' and 'hat' rhyme? Yes, they sound the same. How about 'cat' and 'dog'? Let's think of other words that rhyme with 'cat'."
- › Clap out the syllables in your child's name.

Narrative Skills:

Describing things and events, telling and re-telling stories.

- › Talk with your child, a lot. Ask him open-ended questions, those that cannot be answered with 'yes' or 'no'.
- › Ask your child to tell you about her drawing.
- › Help your child re-tell a story using puppets or props.
- › Play pretend games with your child.

Print Awareness:

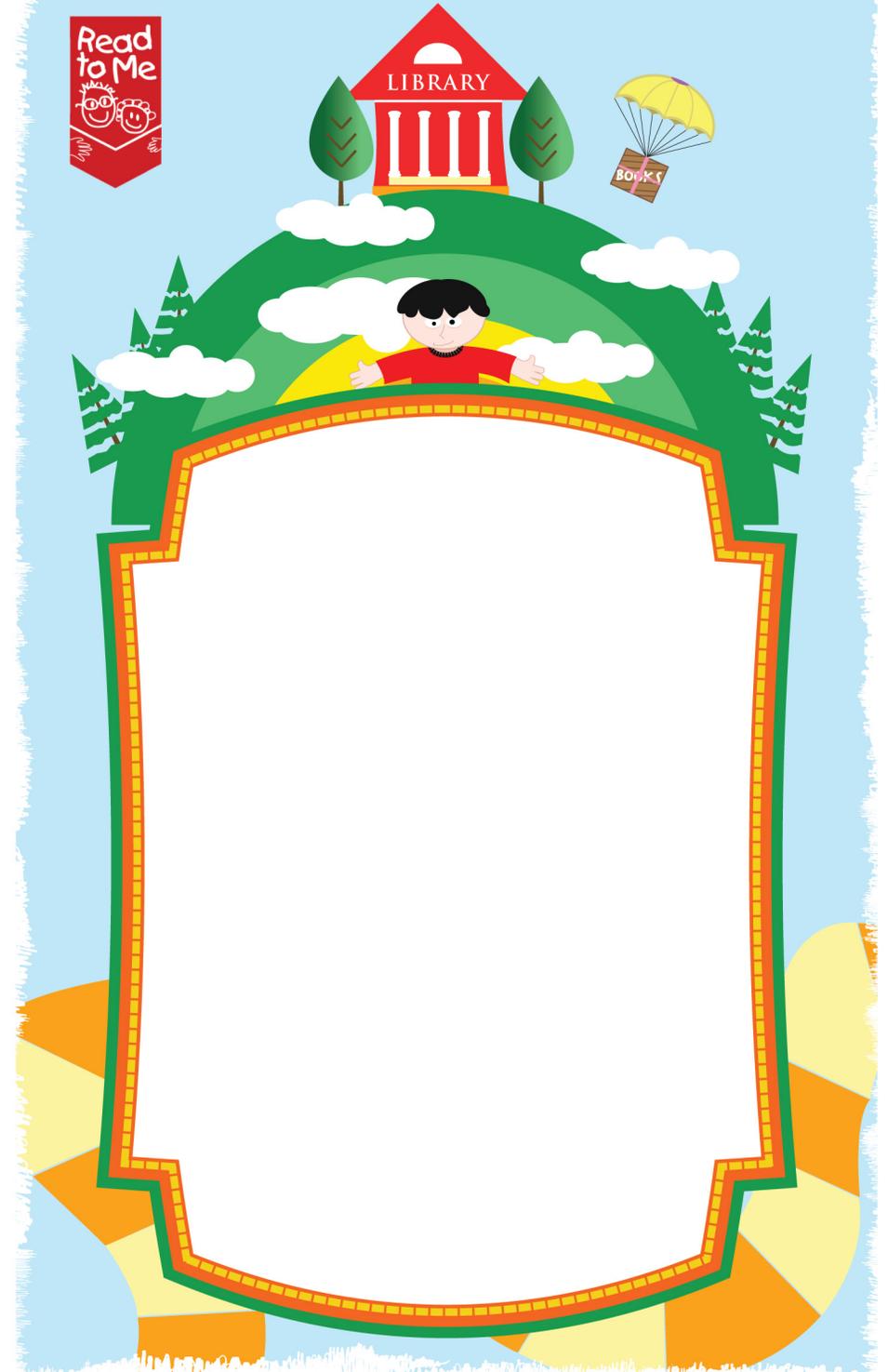
Print has meaning and is all around; knowing how to handle a book and follow text on a page.

- › Hold a book upside down; see if your child corrects you.
- › Point out signs and their meaning (stop, exit, street name)
- › Write your child's name on her things, and use labels around her room (toys, books, socks).
- › Encourage your child to scribble or draw.

Letter Knowledge:

Letters are different from each other, have names, and are related to sounds.

- › Play with blocks and talk about shapes.
- › Help your child recognize the letters in her name. Look for those letters in signs, on box labels, in books.
- › Encourage your child to make letters out of playdoh or wet noodles, or trace on steamy mirrors, with water, in the sand.





START
Your
Journey

Read an
alphabet book
together

Have your
child tell you
about their
favorite
drawing

Share a
story about
your child-
hood

Let your
child
choose a
book to
share

Teach
your child
how to
properly
hold a
book

Point to
the title of
a book as
you read

Name the
items in the
store as
you shop

Find 3 things
that start
with the first
letter of your
child's name

Retell a
favorite
story after
you read it

Talk about
unfamiliar
words you
find in a book
you read
together

Read a
book about
your child's
favorite
interest

Play a rhym-
ing game
together,
think up
words that
rhyme

Have your
child hold the
book and turn
the pages as
you read

Point out
letters and
words on
signs

Read or
say some
nursery
rhymes
together

Read a
rhyming
book
together

Sing the
Alphabet
Song

Share a
number
or shape
book

Read a non-
fiction
book

Sing a
song
together

Read
to Me

