



LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Formal literacy education usually begins once a child commences school, but the building blocks for success in literacy are laid much earlier in childhood. Researchers have identified a number of independent and identifiable skill sets that are early indicators of later reading success, often referred to as *emergent literacy*.

These skills include language abilities (vocabulary), the ability to identify the names and sounds of letters (the alphabet), an ability to identify and manipulate sounds, an understanding of "print convention" together with literacy environments (having books in the home)

HOME READING ACTIVITIES

The home plays an important role in both language and literacy development. Children's vocabulary skills have been found to be related not just to reading to the child but also to the number of books in the home, to library visits and to parents own reading activities.

SHARED READING

Regular shared reading from a young age is usually related to the child's vocabulary. However, too often overlooked but important aspects of shared reading, are book selection and the manner or style in which a child is read to. Active parental help in the form of increased book ownership, information about frequency and shared story telling all enhance the established language benefits of shared reading. The simple action of fingerpointing at words or phrases during storybook telling assists children in acquiring important skills such as the ability to track print, alphabet knowledge, phonemic awareness and the development of word recognition.

(The Let't Read Literature Review Executive Summary 2004)



Things to do when you are reading

www.letsread.com.au

Let your child turn the pages

Point to the words as you read

Point to the pictures and say what you see

Ask questions and talk about things you see

Try funny voices and sounds; play and have fun

Let's pick a book and join the library

Look for rhyme, rhythm and repetition in books.

There are lots of great books.

Borrowing a book is free.

Story time and fun activities are available for young children.

Children love to choose their own books.

Children like the same book read over and over.

- Babies like pictures of babies.
- Toddlers like bright colours and pictures of everyday things.
- 3 year olds like the alphabet and counting books and a story.
- Let your child choose the books.