**Tips for promoting your child’s literacy development**

**Read to your child every day!** Make it cozy, fun and joyful. While you read to them and when you read the same book repeatedly, you are building their brain and they are automatically learning all kinds of things that will help them when they are ready to learn to read. Talk about the pictures, characters and events. **Have a conversation.**

**Fill your house with books.** Keep your child’s favorite baby and board books even as they get older. When your child reaches kindergarten and first grade, these will support them and offer them success as they learn to read.

**Hug your child every day** – it will build a stronger brain!

**Visit your local library . If your child doesn't already have a library card, register for one.** Visit both the picture book and the children's **non-fiction section for information books** about subjects that interest your child such as animals, trucks, vehicles, nature, etc. You can ask the librarian for help in finding those appropriate for your child's age and interests & let your child choose some of the books too. This will build their vocabulary and knowledge.

**When walking, riding on the bus, driving in the car, waiting in line, shopping,** talk with your child about what you see -- and expand upon the characteristics of what you see (color, shape, number, etc.). **Sing and make up songs, play rhyming games, play around with the sounds of language and read or recite nursery rhymes --** all of these activities will promote children's awareness of language and sounds and thus support them in learning to read.

**Provide your child with a spot in your home for them to put their ideas on paper**. **Just as children had to kick, roll, crawl, toddle and fall** before walking, they need practice and experience using these materials to prepare for writing well and spelling accurately. **Accept and praise** their efforts along the way. They'll go through many stages of “emergent writing” before full mastery many years down the road.

**Continue reading daily** with and to your child for years to come, even well after they've learned to read for themselves. This way, you can read books a bit above your child's reading level, further expanding their vocabulary and attention span. If you're not comfortable reading chapter books and novels to your child once they enter elementary school, listen to age-appropriate audiobooks together. Consult librarians about books that will feed your child’s interests.

**Visit a nature center, take a nature hike and visit museums for some new experiences.** These will expose your child to new concepts, information and vocabulary and stimulate their curiosity about the world. It will provide you with many opportunities to converse with your child and topics to explore together through library books.

**Limit and control screen time, especially for the youngest children (no screens until age 3) and then only 2 hours maximum daily.** Screens are not an effective way to build healthy brains.

**Literacy experts tell us that except for the first reading of a book, it’s good to read a book using the following approach on many pages. It’s called dialogic reading and the PEER sequence:**

**Prompt** your child to say something about the book.

**Evaluate** your child’s response.

**Expand** your child’s response by rephrasing it and adding information to it.

**Repeat** the prompt to make sure the child has learned from the expansion.

**Here’s an example of how that might look:**

Imagine that the parent and the child are looking at the page of a book that has a picture of a fire engine on it. The parent says, "What is this?" (the prompt) while pointing to the fire truck. The child says, *truck*, and the parent follows with "That's right (the evaluation); it's a red fire truck (the expansion); can you say *fire truck*?" (the repetition).

**Additional online resources:**

[**www.cuyahogakids.org**](http://www.cuyahogakids.org)

[**www.readingrockets.org**](http://www.readingrockets.org)

[**www.bedtimemath.org**](http://www.bedtimemath.org)

[**www.vroom.org**](http://www.vroom.org)

**Register to receive** free **books mailed to your home for children younger than 4 ½ years old at www.ohioimaginationlibrary.com**

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