

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Talk to your infant and toddler to help him learn to speak and understand the meaning of words. Point to objects that are near and describe them as you play and do daily activities. Having a large vocabulary gives a child a great start when entering school.
- Read to your baby every day starting at six months of age. Reading and playing with books is a wonderful way to spend special time with her. Hearing words over and over helps her become familiar with them. Reading to your baby is one of the best ways to help her learn.
- Use sounds, songs, gestures and words that rhyme to help your infant learn about language and its many uses. Babies need to hear language from a human being. Television and radio are just noise to a infant.
- Point out the printed words in your home and other places you take your child such as the grocery store. Spend as much time listening to your child as you do talking to him.
- Take children's books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home. This gives your child fun activities to entertain and occupy him while traveling and going to the doctor's office or other appointments.
- Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep books and other reading materials where your child can easily reach them.
- Help your child see that reading is important. Set a good example for your child by reading books, newspapers and magazines.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

Hollie Locke, MLIS
Youth Services Librarian, Canton
11 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Canton, NC 28716
828-356-2567
hollie.locke@haywoodcountync.gov
1000booksbeforekindergarten.org

Lisa Hartzell, MLIS
Youth Services Librarian, Waynesville
678 South Haywood Street
Waynesville NC 28786
828-356-2511
lisa.hartzell@haywoodcountync.gov
1000booksbeforekindergarten.org



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FIVE EARLY LITERACY PRACTICES

READ

Reading together is the single most important way you can help prepare your child to read. Starting from birth, shared reading increases vocabulary and general knowledge while helping children develop an interest in reading. Children who enjoy being read to are much more likely to want to learn to read themselves.

WRITE

Reading and writing go hand in hand. Both represent spoken language and communicate information. Children can learn pre-reading skills by participating in writing activities like scribbling, drawing, and forming letters. Keep paper and crayons or markers on a table that children can access easily.

TALK

Children learn language and other early literacy skills by listening to adults talk. As children listen to spoken language, they learn new words and what they mean while gaining important general knowledge about the world around them. This knowledge will help children understand the meaning of what they read.

SING

Songs are a wonderful way for children to learn about language. Singing also slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words. This helps children when they begin to read printed language. Sing songs and play music for your child.

PLAY

Children learn a lot about language through play. Children think symbolically when they play, which helps them to understand that spoken and written words can stand for real objects and experiences. Play also helps children to express themselves and put thoughts into words.



1 BOOK PER DAY FOR 3 YEARS = 1095 BOOKS
10 BOOKS PER WEEK FOR 2 YEARS = 1040 BOOKS
3 BOOKS PER DAY FOR 1 YEAR = 1095 BOOKS

Ask a librarian for a book recommendation list if you're unsure of what to read next!



WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Depending upon where you live, public education is only provided over an age range starting between five and eight. However, numerous studies have established that by age three, a child's brain has reached 80 percent of its adult volume. The brain develops most rapidly during the first 1,000 days of a child's life. A toddler's brain creates up to two million new connections every second. Early experiences and interactions are a key factor in a child's brain development. The ability to learn language skills is greatest before the age of six. Early literacy skills have a lifelong impact on educational and occupational success. The most important predictor of school success is being read to at home during early childhood

If you read just one book a day with your child, you'll reach 1,000 books in less than three years!