

PRESCHOOLERS

Ages 3–5

**Everyday things you
can do NOW with your
child to support their
academic health!**



“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.” – Emilie Buchwald

What you do with your child from birth to age 5 is critical for their success in school and beyond. Early language development creates connections in your child’s brain and provides a foundation for learning to read and write.

The good news is that it is easy to do! The most important thing is that you TALK with your child. Having conversations with your child will help them increase communication skills, develop a large vocabulary, create brain synapses, and make learning easier.

Strategies for Success:



Read!

- Read anything and everything together: signs, packages, magazines, poems, maps, directions, menus...
- Encourage your child to ask questions. What do they wonder?
- Point out how words are made of letters. Can your child find the first letter of their name on signs? In books?

Write!

- Make cards or notes for family and friends.
- Talk with your child about their writing and drawing.
- Celebrate every stage of your child’s writing. Scribbles and drawing will transition to letter-like symbols, then real letters and eventually words.
- Help your child learn to write their name.

Visit the library

- Find books about your child’s interests.
- Pick stories and informational books.
- Reread favorite books.
- Participate in storytime.

Talk, talk, talk

- Listen carefully to your child and respond.
- Ask questions that encourage them to explain their thinking. “Why do you think that happened?”
- Include new words when talking to your child (bike/bicycle, happy/ecstatic).

Involve your child while running errands

- Let your child help make the grocery list using pictures or their emerging writing skills.
- Help them locate the places you are going on a map.
- Talk about the jobs of the employees in the places you visit. Encourage your child to talk to people when appropriate.

Play with sounds and rhymes

- Say familiar nursery rhymes, pausing before the rhyming words. Let your child say the missing rhyming word.
- Make up silly words and chains of rhyming words. Can your child add to it? (cat, splat; zip, clip, sip)

Scan me!

