

Read with your baby and toddler!

Weave literacy into everyday activities to help your child become a reader and writer later in life. Try some of these tips for boosting literacy fun.

- **Be a reader yourself.** When you read books and write letters and lists, show your young child how reading and writing are useful. By showing why reading and writing are important, you'll motivate your child to become a reader and writer.
- **Set aside a consistent time each day for reading aloud.** Choose a read-aloud time that fits your schedule and stick to it every day. Your baby, toddler or young child will look forward to this time together.
- **Connect read-aloud choices to daily activities.** Read a book such as *Sea, Sand, Me!* before or after a beach trip. When you read and talk about things your child has experienced, you help him learn vocabulary and extend his understanding of experiences.
- **Check out programs at the public library.** Many feature special story times, sing-alongs & puppet shows.
- **Look at letters and words as you enjoy activities.** As you walk to the park, point out letters in street signs. Let your child draw with chalk on the sidewalk. By drawing your child's attention to print and letters, you teach specific letters and words while pointing out the many uses of print.
- **Take books along on outings** so you can enjoy books wherever you go. Pack some board books in your car.
- **Follow your child's interests as well as your own** when you read. Act out pictures and actions in the books, looking for your child to smile and move their arms and legs, letting you know they want to keep playing.
- **Act out some of the voices of characters and add clarifying phrases** to the reading, such as "Moo, the cow says moo."