

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Rochester Community Schools

Encourage your child to choose books to read

When your child chooses books that she wants to read, she's learning that people read books for a purpose—including for fun! To help your child choose books to read together:

- **Explore different sections** of the library (picture books, magazines, biographies, etc.). Talk about what makes each section unique.
- **Ask, "What type of book** do you want to read today?" If she wants to learn, help her look for nonfiction. If she wants to laugh, look for a book of silly poems.
- **Let your child pick** what to read during story time. It's okay if the book seems too short, doesn't have any words or is a little difficult. See if you can work through it together.

Talk to your librarian if you have questions about books for your child—or if you're looking for suggestions!



Source: "Help a Child Choose a Book," ReadWriteThink, www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/tips-howtos/help-child-choose-book-30320.html.

*"A good book is the best of friends,
the same today and forever."*

—Martin Tupper

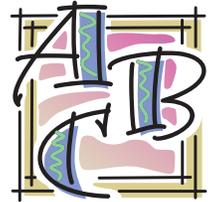
Improve your little one's rhyming skills

Build your child's language skills by encouraging him to find rhymes wherever he can. Help your youngster rhyme—all the time! Here are a few ways:

- **Point out common items in your home.** Choose things with simple names like *sink* and *hat* to make it easier for him. Ask your child to name a few rhymes for each object.
- **Read familiar nursery rhymes to your child.** While reading, pause before a rhyming word comes up. See if he can guess the word.
- **Think of rhymes when you're on the go.** Think of a word and challenge your child to think of another word that rhymes. This is a great game to play when running errands or waiting in lines.

Look for letters wherever you go

Next time you and your child run errands, go on a letter hunt. Starting with "A," look for street signs that have words that begin with each letter. Can you make it all the way through the alphabet?



Look for letters in more places than just store windows or billboards. How about a manhole cover? On the mailbox? On a license plate?

Music boosts your child's vocabulary

Listen to music with your child. Sing along to the radio in the car. Learning the words to songs is a good way to help your child build her vocabulary—and vocabulary is important for reading!



Source: "Tunes for Tots," Between the Lions, www.pbs.org/parents/lions/families/music_and_media.html.

Have your child help you 'write' to build motor skills

Scribbling is one of the ways children get ready to write. Give your child a sheet of paper and a crayon. Ask him to help you "write" a grocery list or a letter.



He may just draw or scribble. Or he may ask you to help him make real words. Either way, he's practicing important motor skills and having fun!

Build foundations by learning ‘phonemes’

Help your child learn the sounds associated with each letter of the alphabet. These sounds are called *phonemes*.

To build your child’s phonemic awareness:

- **Focus on one sound at a time.** Pick sounds like /m/ or /s/ that are easy to identify—and to exaggerate.
- **Get creative.** Make learning phonemes fun by creating silly tongue twisters. “Miss Molly marched to the moon on Monday.”
- **Listen for the sound.** See if your child can hear specific phonemes in different words. Ask, “Do you hear /sss/ in the word *snake*? What about in the word *books*?”
- **Find the phonemes in books.** Have your child listen carefully for specific sounds while you’re reading together.



Source: “Tips for Teaching Your Child About Phonemes,” Reading Rockets, www.readingrockets.org/article/54607/.

Simple techniques encourage love of reading

Raising a reader doesn’t have to be complicated. There are many simple things you can do at home to get your child interested in reading and language:

- **Keep books and magazines** around your home and within your child’s reach.
- **Show that reading and writing** are important in your everyday life. Write grocery lists. Read the newspaper together. Write letters at the kitchen table.
- **Encourage your child** to write and scribble.
- **Notice and point out** words all around you—on signs, in grocery stores, on cereal boxes.



- **Have fun!** Teach your child to love words and reading, and you’ll turn him into a life-long reader.



Q: I haven’t really pushed my child to read. But now that she’s in preschool, is it time to buckle down?

A: Learning to read is a process, and it takes time. Still, you can do some things now to make reading a little easier later. Point out familiar words, like your child’s name, the word *stop* and the title of

her favorite book. Visit the library often and be sure to read together every day.

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Review when to use ‘me’ and ‘I’

Have you ever secretly wondered if you’re giving the right advice when correcting your child’s grammar when she says, “You and me went to the store” instead of “You and I went to the store”?

Double-check by taking “you and” out of the sentence. See how it sounds. (“Me went to the store” or “I went to the store.”) Now you know “I” is the right choice!



Books to delight your early reader

- ***The Lost (and Found) Balloon*** by Celeste Jenkins (Aladdin). See what happens when Molly lets go of her shiny red balloon and watches as it floats high above the town.
- ***Yoo-Hoo, Ladybug!*** by Mem Fox (Beach Lane). “Yoo-hoo, Ladybug! Where are you?” Help your child build observation skills while playing hide-and-seek with Ladybug!
- ***I Am Not a Copycat!*** by Ann Bonwill (Atheneum). Hugo the Hippo wants to be unique. But how can he be one-of-a-kind when Bella the bird keeps copying him?



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