

Activities

To Improve

Early Reading Skills

4 Things Parents Can Do To Help Children with Their Early Reading Skills

Ages 9 -18 months, enhance visual tracking skills by reading picture books with your children for a few minutes daily. Turn the pages of the books and use your finger to point out characters, movement, and action. Talk about what the children see on the page. "The doggie is running." "Where is he going?"

Ages 18 -24 months, speak with your child face to face. Children develop phonemic awareness by experiencing the kinesthesia of oral-motor movements. When you speak with your child face to face and enunciate your words, your child watches how your mouth forms the sounds. So sit face to face while you speak, playfully encourage your child to make the phonemic sounds with you.

Ages 24 -36 months, reading fluency is correlated with rhythmic patterns and sounds. When children are able to read with meter, the recurring pattern of stresses or accents that provide the pulse or beat of music, they become more fluid readers enhancing foundational skills that underlie comprehension. As you read books like Dr. Seuss, enjoy the rhyme and rhythm. "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Ages 36 -48 months, sequential processing is a foundational cognitive skill that underlies both cognition and movement. We read, speak, play and even move in a sequential manner. One step comes before the next. So enjoy noticing and talking about patterns with your children. Be it in the car, while cooking in the kitchen or on the playground, explore what you are doing in words and talk about what comes next. "First we walk up the stairs, then we climb on the slide, then we slide down, Zoom!"