# 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

### Level 4, 301-400

## 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 express themselves and put thoughts into words.

#### **Books That Support Playing:**

- Interactive books
- Movement books



# Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 400 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.



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# Fun Activities to Try at Home

**Practice letter knowledge.** Go outside and draw alphabet letters on the ground with chalk. Have your child trace over the letters with water and a paintbrush. Encourage them to sound out the letter as they trace it.

**Bath time is fun time.** Bath time is a great time to play. If you have some bath toys, ask your child what sound the object makes, or what color it is. Encourage them to imitate sounds or movements like "What animal says quack? Can you do it too? Let's splash like a duck." They will be having fun and practicing phonological awareness skills at the same time.

What's that noise? When you're playing with your child, have fun making noises for different toys, like trucks, baby dolls or animals. Hearing different noises and experiencing various pitches, tones and volumes helps your little one develop the basics of language.

**Make a sensory bottle.** Use a sturdy water bottle and fill it with items like rice, pompoms, letter beads or small figurines. Glue the lid shut. Have your child shake and explore the bottle to find objects hidden inside. Talk with your child while they play to encourage oral language and vocabulary skills. This is great to bring along in the car too.

**Explore shapes.** Identifying shapes is a precursor to learning letters. Have your child play with different shape blocks or go on a shape scavenger hunt around your house.

**On the Go Tip:** A simple game of peek-a-boo while grocery shopping can have a big impact. Playing helps children become aware of their bodies, increase curiosity and develop a sense of humor.

# My 5 Favorite Books: