

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 1, 1-100

READ

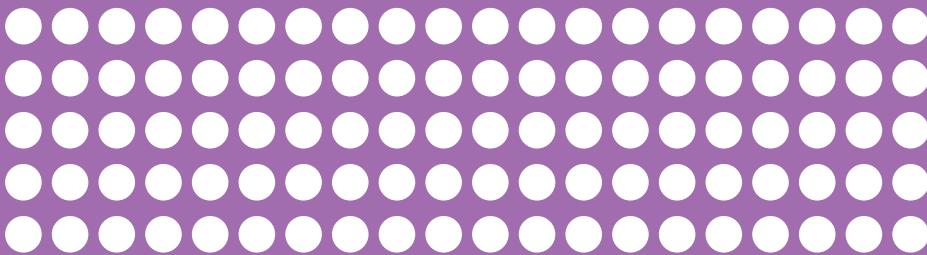
Reading together is the single most important way you can help prepare your child to read. Starting from birth, shared reading increases vocabulary and general knowledge while helping children develop an interest in reading. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read themselves.

Books That Support Reading:

- Books that follow your child's interests
- Books with fun, colorful illustrations
- Lift-the-flap
- Non-fiction



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 100 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Reading can be done outside of a book. As you walk with your child, help draw their attention to print all around you. Look for letters on signs, license plates and billboards to gain print awareness skills.

Create a cozy book nook in your home. Gather blankets, pillows and books that you and your child both enjoy reading to increase your child's print motivation skills. Have fun!

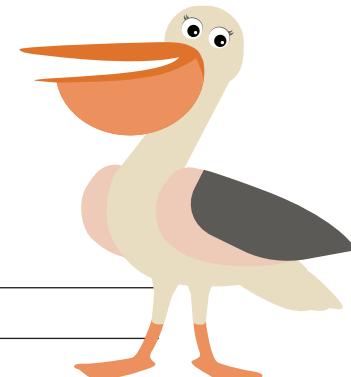
Play "I Spy" while reading. "I spy something on this page that goes on your feet. What is it?" It's a fun way to read together and develops narrative skills as well.

Get silly! When sharing books with your child, don't be afraid to get silly with your storytelling. Point out pictures in the book, describe the setting and give characters different voices. When you enjoy reading, your child will as well.

Make an alphabet book. Create your own alphabet book using construction paper with pictures glued in, or let your child draw an object to match each letter. Read it together at bedtime for a special letter learning storytime.

On the Go Tip: Read on the go! When packing your diaper bag for the day, pop in a board book or sturdy picture book. Now you're ready to have a storytime on the move.

My 5 Favorite Books:



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 2, 101-200

TALK

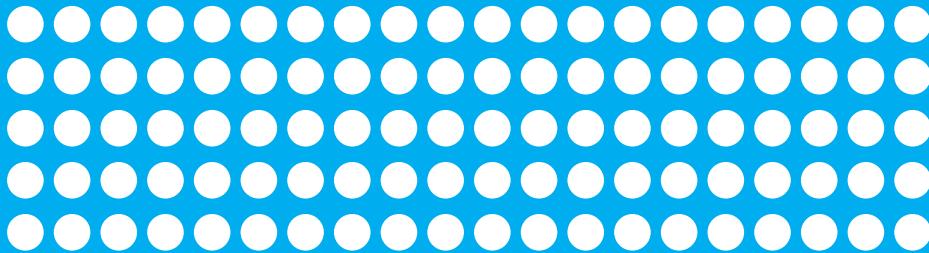
Children learn language and other early literacy skills by listening to adults talk. As children listen to spoken language, they learn new words and what they mean while gaining important general knowledge about the world around them. This knowledge will help children understand the meaning of what they read.

Books That Support Talking:

- Wordless picture books
- Books that encourage questions
- Books with repeated phrases



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 200 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Talk about food. As you prepare a meal, invite your child to help. Talk about what you are doing, how you are doing it or the food you are preparing (name, color, texture, taste or where it comes from).

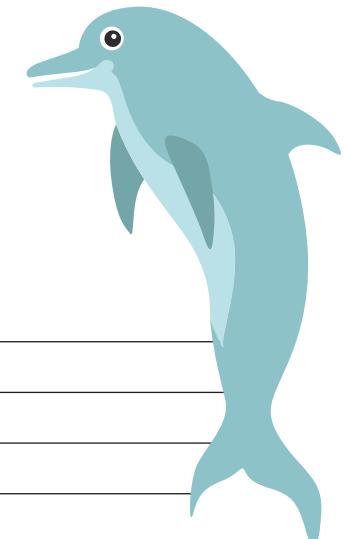
Tell me more. Expand on the things your child says. For example, if your child points out a flower, respond with: "Yes, that is a flower. That kind of flower is called a rose. Roses can be red, yellow, white or pink."

Share nursery rhymes together. Say them fast and say them slow. Children will begin to play with and hear smaller sounds in words, which builds their phonological awareness.

Go on a nature walk at your local park. Talk with your child about the names of the animals and plants you see. Check out your library for books about native plants and animals in your area.

Share personal stories. Talk with your child about what it was like when you were little. Do you have any funny stories to tell? Ask them open-ended questions about what you shared.

On the Go Tip: Point out signs, labels and logos as you and your child go about your day. Talk about what different signs represent to help make your child aware of words and symbols all around them.



My 5 Favorite Books:

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 3, 201-300

WRITE

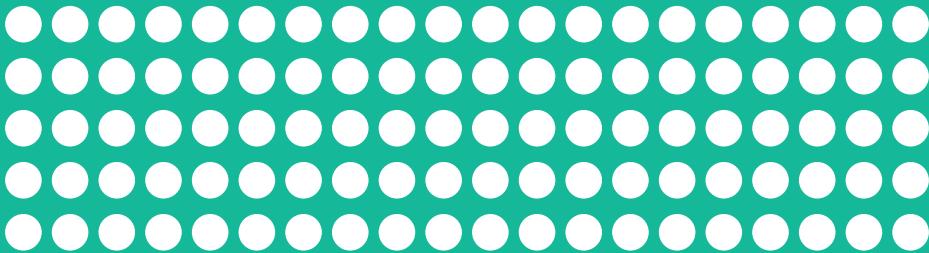
Reading and writing go hand in hand. Both represent spoken language and communicate information. Children can learn prereading skills by participating in writing activities like scribbling, drawing and forming letters. Keep paper and crayons or markers on a table that children can access easily.

Books That Support Writing:

- Books that model writing
- Books with "handwritten" lettering
- Alphabet books



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 300 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Draw and tell. Ask your child to draw a picture and then tell you about what they drew. Label the picture with important words or write their description underneath the picture. This helps build oral language skills and develop vocabulary.

Trace your names. Use sand, flour or shaving cream to trace names, shapes, numbers and letters. This supports print awareness and the understanding that words have meaning.

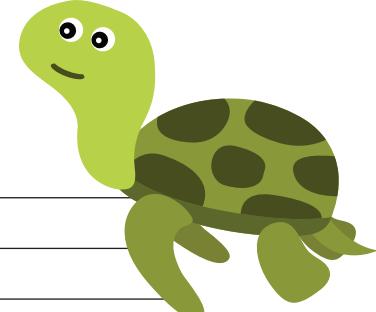
Create a grocery list. Ask your child to make a list of groceries to get at the store. This may just look like lines and scribbles. Ask them to check items off the list as you put them in the basket. This helps support vocabulary development and knowledge about the world your child lives in.

Counting on fingers. Strengthen muscles needed for writing by helping your child count on their fingers. Read a counting book together and help them if they are unable to raise their fingers independently. Other activities that help develop fine motor skills include beading, Play-Doh and Q-tip painting.

Playing with tape. Make large letters on the floor with masking tape. Trace each letter by walking on it or rolling a toy car around the letter. This activity supports letter knowledge.

On the Go Tip: Keep a Ziploc bag with a few crayons and a small notepad in your bag and ask your child to draw what they see from their car seat or stroller when you're out and about. Not only does it keep your child busy, it's a great keepsake and a fun way to track their development!

My 5 Favorite Books:



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 4, 301-400

PLAY

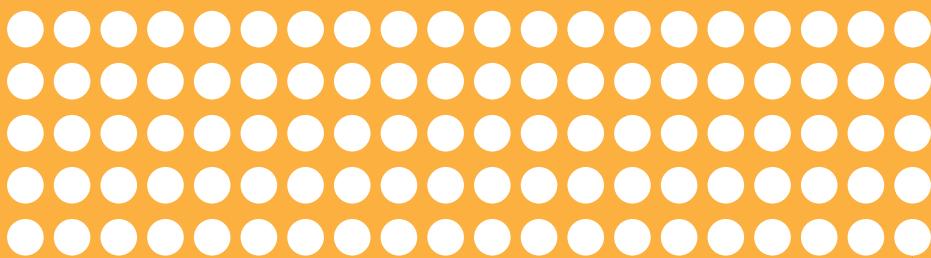
Children learn a lot about language through play. Children think symbolically when they play, which helps them to understand that spoken and written words can stand for real objects and experiences. Play also helps children express themselves and put thoughts into words.

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.

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.

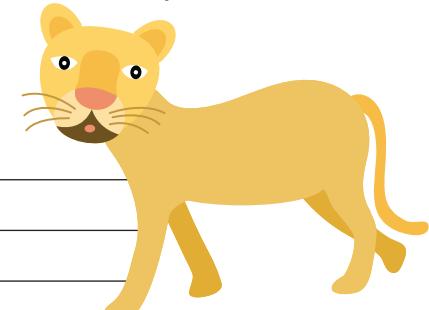
What's that noise? When you're playing with your child, have fun making noises for different toys, like trucks, baby dolls or animals. Hearing different noises and experiencing various pitches, tones and volumes helps your little one develop the basics of language.

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:



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 5, 401-500

SING

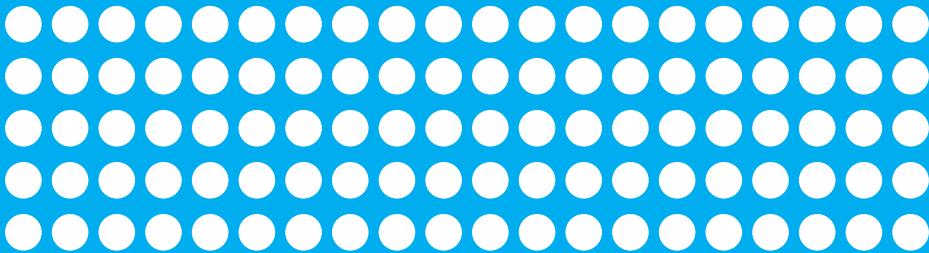
Songs are a wonderful way for children to learn about language. Singing slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words. This helps children when they begin to read printed language. Sing songs and play music for your child. The library carries music for children as well as books that have lyrics to traditional songs.

Books That Support Singing:

- Rhyming books
- Books with animal sounds
- Nursery rhymes
- Books that can be sung



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 500 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Garage Band. Make music with things you have in the house like pots, pans, spoons, boxes or cups. Crawl around on the floor with your child to the beat of the music.

Tap to the beat. When you sing, clap or tap along, you're helping your child hear that words have smaller parts. This will help your child later when they are learning to read.

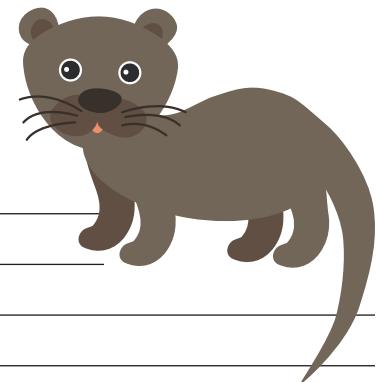
Quiet songs for bedtime. Sing the same quiet song at bedtime. Repetition and routine is good for young children, and they will know it's time for sleep.

Learn new words through music. Help your child build their vocabulary with songs. Sing a song you remember learning as a child. A song that was special to you can become special to your child too!

Dance Party! Throw a family dance party with kids' music that includes instructional songs, like the "Hokey Pokey" and "Shake Your Sillies Out." This helps build listening and comprehension skills.

On the Go Tip: Make a silly song to a favorite tune or ask your child to fill in the blank. "Row, row, row, your _____" or "The itsy, bitsy, _____" can become super silly with a little imagination.

My 5 Favorite Books:



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 6: 501-600

READ

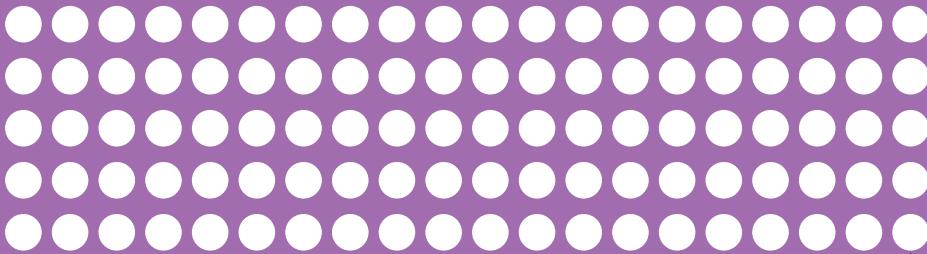
Reading together is the single most important way you can help prepare your child to read. Starting from birth, shared reading increases vocabulary and general knowledge while helping children develop an interest in reading. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read themselves.

Books That Support Reading:

- Books that follow your child's interests
- Books with fun, colorful illustrations
- Lift-the-flap
- Non-fiction



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 600 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Make reading a part of your daily routine. Bedtime is a great time to share books and bond with your child, but reading outside provides a multi-sensory experience and shows your child that reading can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere.

One more time? If your child has a favorite story, try reading it again. Repetitious reading reinforces memory skills, sequencing skills and increases vocabulary. Every reading can lead to new discoveries.

Read a non-fiction book. Does your child love dinosaurs, space or nature? The library has many options for even our youngest readers. Try doing a "picture-walk" and talk about the pictures on the page and what is happening. This builds prereading and vocabulary skills.

Try recorded books. The library offers many children's books with read-aloud or read-along options. It's a fun and exciting way to try a new book.

Letter craft. Use colorful Popsicle sticks with Velcro dots attached on the ends to make letters. See how many letters or shapes you can make. Keep the Popsicle sticks in a Ziploc bag so you can create an on the go kit.

On the Go Tip: Relate the things that you are doing as you spend the day together to things that happen in your child's favorite books. "We're going to the zoo just like Maisy did in the book you like. What did Maisy do at the zoo? Should we do that too?"

My 5 Favorite Books:

A detailed illustration of a bald eagle standing on the right side of the page, facing left. It has a white head with a prominent yellow beak and dark brown body feathers.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 7, 601-700

TALK

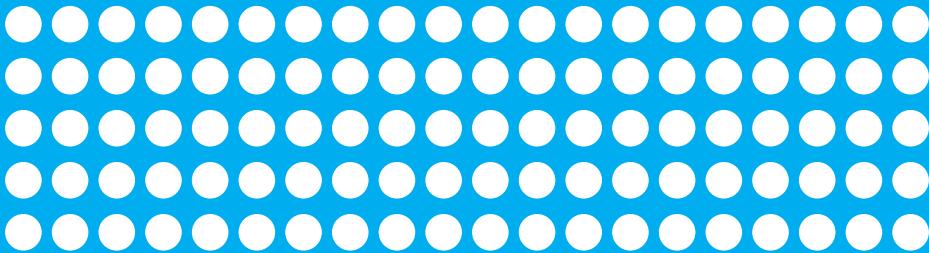
Children learn language and other early literacy skills by listening to adults talk. As children listen to spoken language, they learn new words and what they mean while gaining important general knowledge about the world around them. This knowledge will help children understand the meaning of what they read.

Books That Support Talking:

- Wordless picture books
- Books that encourage questions
- Books with repeated phrases



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 700 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Take a picture walk. Look through a book and talk about it before you even read it. Turn the pages and have your child tell a story based on just the pictures. Then read the book together. This is a great way to develop your child's narrative skills.

Rhyme Time. Give your child an object, such as a hat or a sock. Prompt them to come up with as many rhyming words as they can for that object, even if the words are made-up and nonsensical.

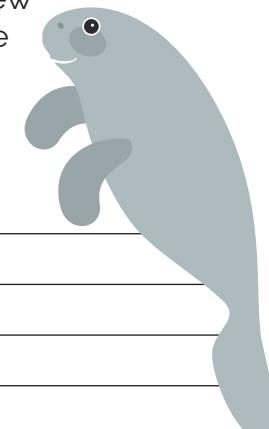
Talk about the day. Ask your child to tell you about the activities they did throughout the day starting from when they woke in the morning. See if they are able to remember and retell their day in reverse order.

In my home. Gather familiar objects from your home and put them in a box. Have your child select 2-3 things without looking. Once selected, challenge them to tell a story using all the props they picked.

Watch something new together. Afterwards, prompt your child to close their eyes and tell you something they remember about a character or a scene. Have an open dialogue with your child while they share their thoughts and feelings.

On the Go Tip:

Engage your child in conversation while on the go. Talk about where you are headed, what you did last time you were there if it's a familiar place, or what new and exciting things you will do if it's somewhere your child has never been.



My 5 Favorite Books:

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 8, 701-800

WRITE

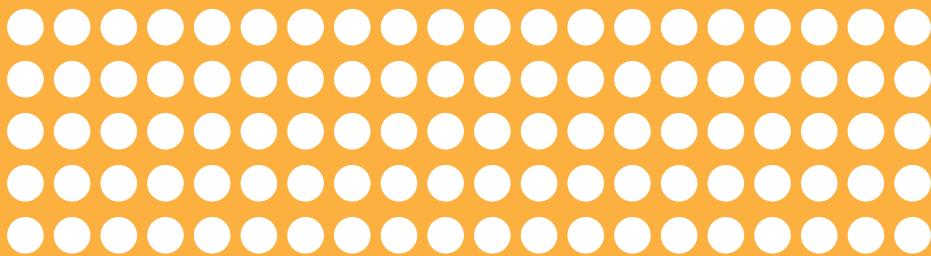
Reading and writing go hand in hand. Both represent spoken language and communicate information. Children can learn prereading skills by participating in writing activities like scribbling, drawing and forming letters. Keep paper and crayons or markers on a table that children can access easily.

Books That Support Writing:

- Books that model writing
- Books with "handwritten" lettering
- Alphabet books



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 800 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Write a letter to a friend or family member. Your child can tell you what to write, add the stamp to the envelope and help take it to the mailbox. This supports the development of oral language skills, vocabulary and print awareness - the understanding that print has meaning.

Make cookies in letter shapes. This is a tasty way to develop letter knowledge - the understanding that letters are different than numbers and have sounds.

Work it out. Give your child the opportunity to crumple up scrap paper or junk mail and develop those finger and hand muscles.

Hand tracing. Trace letters and shapes on the back of your child's hand with your finger. Say the name of the shape or letter as you trace. For preschoolers, ask them to close their eyes and guess which shape or letter you drew and then let them draw shapes on your hand while you guess. This activity builds letter knowledge.

Learn new fingerplays. Fingerplays like "Where Is Thumbkin?" allow toddlers to practice coordinating words and finger motions.

Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin? (Hide hands behind back)

Here I am! Here I am! (Show left thumb, then right thumb)

How are you today, sir? (Wiggle left thumb)

Very well, I thank you. (Wiggle right thumb)

Run away, run away. (Hide left hand behind back, then right hand)

On the Go Tip:

Make flash cards of shapes, letters and numbers using index cards or a notebook, and let your child trace the shape outlines with their fingers while on the go.

My 5 Favorite Books:



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 9, 801-900

PLAY

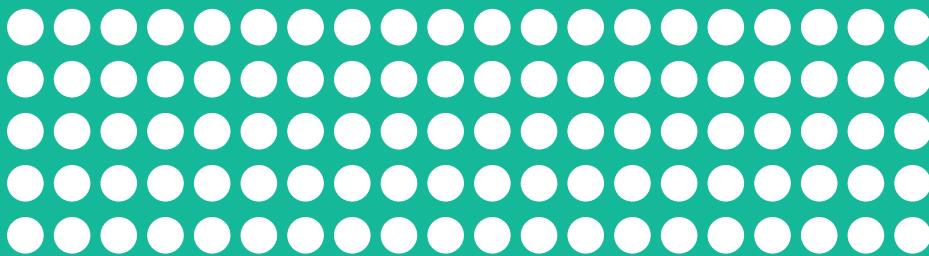
Children learn a lot about language through play. Children think symbolically when they play, which helps them to understand that spoken and written words can stand for real objects and experiences. Play also helps children express themselves and put thoughts into words.

Books That Support Playing:

- Interactive books
- Movement books



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



You have just read 900 books! Return this sheet to the library for your sticker and to begin the next level.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Follow the leader. Play follow the leader and do actions like touch your head, turn around and sit down. Ask your child to do the same things and then switch! This game helps children focus on listening and language development.

Acting out. Act out your child's favorite story with stuffed animals.

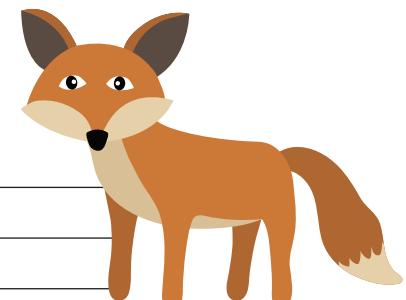
Go on a scavenger hunt. Make a list of shapes, colors or objects to look for on your next walk and cross them off once you find them.

Playing dress-up. Dress-up is a fun and inexpensive way to introduce your child to storytelling. Encourage them to think about how a story progresses through the beginning, middle and end.

Play pretend! Grab some stuffed animals and create a veterinarian's office. Reuse recycled food packages to make a grocery store. Pull out some paper, envelopes and crayons to play post office. These activities are fun and increase many early literacy skills.

On the Go Tip: Play a game of "Can you...?" by asking a series of questions like, "Can you clap your hands?" or "Can you find something green?" Playing a game like this is fun and easy when you're on the go - and it also helps improve concentration, attention span and memory.

My 5 Favorite Books:



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Level 10, 901-1,000

SING

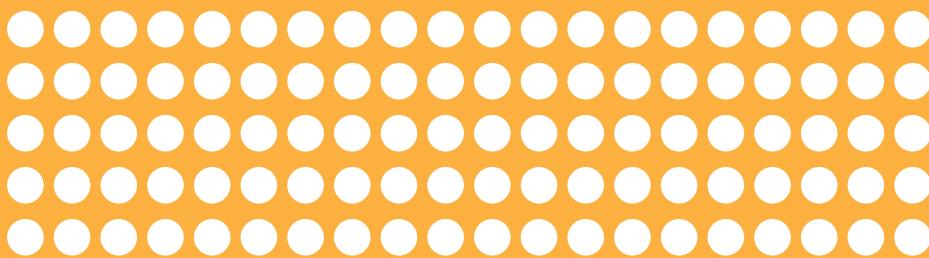
Songs are a wonderful way for children to learn about language and hear new words. Singing slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words. This helps children when they begin to read printed language. Sing songs and play music for your child.

Books That Support Singing:

- Rhyming books
- Books with animal sounds
- Nursery rhymes
- Books that can be sung



Please fill in a bubble for every book read.



Congratulations! You have read 1,000 books! Return this sheet to the library to claim your sticker and certificate.

Fun Activities to Try at Home

Shake things up! Make shakers by putting a small amount of dried rice, beans, metal bolts, sand or pebbles in empty plastic bottles. Glue the caps securely to the bottles. Reinforce them by covering the caps with masking tape. Let your child explore the different sounds made by the shakers.

Draw with music. Tape large pieces of paper to a table or the floor. Make crayons available for your child. Play a distinctive type of music, such as jazz, opera or country and watch what the music inspires in each drawing. Repeat with different music.

Add movement to music. Give your child ribbons or scarves and put on some music for them to dance to. Try this activity using music of varying types and speeds.

Make a song cube! Tape up a small square box (size of a tissue box) and cover with paper. Write the name and draw a picture for six different nursery rhymes or songs (examples: a star for "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or a bus for the song "Wheels on the Bus"). Ask your child to roll the box and then sing the song or rhyme together.

Dance with your baby. Help babies move their bodies while listening to music. Sway gently to slower music and hold babies closely as you move to a faster tempo. You can also lay babies on the floor and help them move their legs and arms to the tempo of the song.

On the Go Tip: Create a few playlists of your child's favorite songs that include upbeat tempos for when you want to sing and groove and softer songs for naps and quiet time while on the go. Check out and download music for kids through the library's free services to hear songs and sounds from different countries.

My 5 Favorite Books:

