



Language and Literacy -Tips

1. When you are reading or sharing a book with your child, use an enthusiastic tone of voice to draw her into the story. Stop when she is no longer engaged. Do not think it is necessary to read the whole book.
2. When you make sharing books a regular routine with your child, you help him to become a better reader and to succeed in school. While at the same time, you are assisting him to develop his imagination, creativity, vocabulary, and the enjoyment of reading.
3. Exposure to language is a prerequisite to becoming a better reader. Include songs, word games, poems, and nursery rhymes to develop awareness of sounds in the language.
4. When introducing the letters of the alphabet, make it a purposeful activity rather than repeating them in a rote manner. Show your child that his name is written with letters. Get him to use letters to form meaningful words.

You can also engage in this activity while you are waiting at the doctor's office or involved in household chores.

5. Encourage your child, when playing with his friends or siblings, to dramatize a favorite story, draw pictures, compose a song, or create a craft about it. This will build vocabulary, create more interest, and add to the enjoyment of the literacy experience.
6. Set up a special place in your home for your child to have access to interesting age appropriate books. Guide to the books and remind them about it regularly.
7. Connect language-stimulation activities with cultivating children's cognitive development (critical thinking, problem-solving and creative thinking).

Examples: Help young children (Toddlers and Preschoolers) name items in their environment and categorize them.

Get school-age children to make predictions about what the story is about from the book cover or about the story ending.

Preschool Child: Boost Language and Thinking Skills with Playing Games.

- ❖ **Play the Alphabet Thinking Game** (age 4 and up; Requires knowledge of the alphabet and initial letter sounds): Adult and child take turns with an alphabet question/answer game. You ask a child a question such as "What begins with the letter "a" and something you can eat?" or "u" and keeps you from getting wet?" Accept diverse responses as long as it is accurate. Next, it is the child's turn.
- ❖ **Play the "My Favorites' Game.** Adult and child take turns asking each other about their favorite things (corresponding to the age of the child with the first three categories suitable for preschool-age children: **animal, color, food, game, sports team, book, flower, etc.**) Ask the child questions such as "What is your favorite animal?" Next, it is the child's turn to ask you, "What is your favorite animal (color/food/game, etc.)?" Continue with the back and forth questioning until the child loses interest.