



A loving relationship develops between you and your child when you share books, sing and recite rhymes together. The bond you create through books, music and playing will support your child's learning for a lifetime.

Based on information from Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library, a program of the Public Library Association and the Association of Library Service to Children: ala.org/everychild

Sing

Singing slows down language so your child can hear the smaller sounds in words. Songs introduce new words in a fun and playful way.

Many songs have a beginning, middle and end. Songs, like *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*, teach storytelling skills. Add the actions to songs to build comprehension skills.

- Sing throughout the day
- Make up silly songs
- Listen to music, dance & play instruments
- Point out rhyming words in songs & books
- Have your child clap out syllables: "carr-ot"
- Read books you can sing aloud
- Make up songs using your child's name

Write

Children need many opportunities to practice their writing. Provide writing materials and make practicing fun and something you do together.

- Help your child write letters to friends or family so you can mail them together
- Have your child practice writing letters in sand, cornmeal or shaving cream
- Point out letters in labels & signs
- Show how letters can look different
- Write grocery lists together



BROOMFIELD
Mamie Doud Eisenhower
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Broomfield Library
3 Community Park Road
Broomfield, Colorado | 720.887.2315
broomfieldlibrary.org

Early Literacy for Preschoolers

Broomfield Library





Read

Reading is the single most important activity for preparing children to read on their own and for building all early literacy skills.

Children who enjoy books will want to learn how to read. Make sure you and your child are in a good mood when reading; stop if your child loses interest and try again later.

- Visit the library often
- Attend a family or preschool story time
- Read alphabet books
- Underline words with your finger while reading
- Share Rebus books where pictures substitute some of the words
- Act out books with funny voices & puppets
- Ask “what” questions about the story & pictures when reading
- Ask open-ended questions while reading: “What do you think will happen next?”
- Read non-fiction books
- Make predictions about stories based on the cover before you read it together
- Let your child pick out his or her own books



Play

Playing is one of the best ways for preschoolers to learn language, develop literacy skills, build fine & gross motor skills and practice important social skills for interacting with others.

Follow your child’s lead to enhance the playing experience. Put away distractions, get down on the floor and make a lot of eye contact while playing with your child.

- Play with toys in the Family Place Center in the Children’s Library
- Read books about what your child is interested in learning about (for example, firefighters); act out realistic situations using toys, props & the language used in the books
- Act out books & stories with dress-up clothes, puppets, stuffed animal & toys
- Play with toys for solving problems– puzzles (12 to 20+ pieces), blocks that snap, objects to sort
- Play with toys for pretending & building– blocks, transportation toys, dolls, dress-up clothes, sand & water toys, puppets
- Play with toys for developing large & small muscles– plastic bats, balls, ride-on & playground equipment, workbench, targets for throwing things, plastic bowling pins



Talk

The more you talk to your child, the more words he or she will learn. Repetition builds understanding. Children need to hear words many times before understanding the meaning of the word and how to use it.

Speak in the language most comfortable for you. Children increase their understanding of the world when they hear more words in any language.

- Use positive language
- Talk about you & your child’s feelings
- Talk about the pictures in books & how different characters feel
- Make a list of words your child doesn’t know when reading together; look the words up in a dictionary & define them together; keep the list posted so everyone knows to use the words around your child
- Recite nursery rhymes & read every day
- Share stories from your day over dinner or before bedtime
- Read your child’s favorite book multiple times
- Read non-fiction books about things your child is interested in learning about

Children are born ready to learn, you provide the opportunities for learning through reading, playing, talking, singing and writing.