

# Family

Literacy

Day



## Try these family literacy activities with your children.

- Go for a walk and talk about what you see, hear and smell.
- Visit your local book tree to trade a book.
- Attend a family literacy night or any special literacy events in your community.
- Read recipes together and bake something special.
- Read a story to your children and talk about it.
- Try a fun alphabet craft.
- Post the alphabet up on the fridge and talk about things at home that start with each letter.
- Tell stories to your children about the past.
- Visit your local library to borrow a book.
- Write a story with your children.
- Have a special night for singing and telling stories with your family & friends.
- Have a board game night.
- Create a family scrapbook about your last vacation.

## *What is Family Literacy Day?*

Family literacy is all about the things families do and learn together every day. Children start learning at birth and they need the love and support from those around them to help them grow and learn. Talking, singing, reading and playing with your children will help them develop language and literacy and let them know who they are.

## Sharing Books with Children

### Make Sharing Books Part of Every Day

Read/share stories at bedtime, on the bus.

### A Few Minutes is OK—Don't Worry if You Don't Finish the Story

Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they will be able to sit longer.

### Talk or Sing About the Pictures

You do not have to read the words to tell a story.

### Let Children Turn the Pages

Babies need board books and help turning pages, but a three-year-old can do it alone. Remember, it's OK to skip pages!

### Show Children the Cover Page

Explain what the story is about.

### Show Children the Words

Run your finger along the words as you read them, from left to right.

### Make the Story Come Alive

Create voices for the story characters and use your body to tell the story.

### Make It Personal

Talk about your own family, pets, or community when you are reading about others in a story.

### Ask Questions About the Story, and Let Children Ask Questions Too!

Use the story to engage in conversation and to talk about familiar activities/objects.

### Let Children Tell the Story

Children can memorize a story and retell it.

## What Young Children Like in Books

### Infants 0-6 months

- Books with simple, large pictures or designs with bright colors.
- Stiff cardboard, "chunky" books, or fold out books that can be propped up in the crib.
- Cloth and soft vinyl books with simple pictures of people or familiar objects that can go in the bath or get washed.

### Infants 6-12 months

- Board books with photos of other babies.
- Brightly colored "chunky" board books to touch and taste!
- Books with photos of familiar objects like balls and bottles.
- Books with sturdy pages that can be propped up or spread out in the crib or on a blanket.
- Plastic/vinyl books for bath time.
- Washable cloth books to cuddle/mouth.
- Small plastic photo albums of family and friends.

### Young Toddlers 12-24 months

- Sturdy board books that they can carry.
  - Books with photos of children doing familiar things like sleeping or playing.
  - Goodnight books for bed time.
  - Books about saying hello & good-bye.
  - Books with only a few words on each page.
  - Books with simple rhymes or predictable text.
  - Animal books of all sizes and shapes.
- ### Toddlers 2-3 years
- Books that tell simple stories.
  - Simple rhyming books that they can memorize.
  - Bed time books.
  - Books about counting, the alphabet, shapes, or sizes.
  - Animal books, vehicle books, books about playtime.
  - Books with their favorite TV characters inside.