

## Help Your Child Get Ready to Read!

Children need to develop early literacy skills before they begin to learn how to read. You can help promote these skills by doing these simple activities every day: **TALK, SING, READ, WRITE AND PLAY.**

### Talk

Children learn new words and other information by listening to adults talk. As children listen to spoken language, they make sense of the world around them.

- Talk with your child in the language you know best and talk to your child even if your child isn't talking yet.
- If your child is talking, give your child plenty of time to talk to you, and listen to your child.
- Expand on what your child says. If your child says "I see a truck," you can say "Yes, that is a truck; it is a moving van."

### Sing

Songs are a great way for children to learn language. Singing helps children hear the different sounds that make up words.

- Don't worry if you are not a good singer. Your child will love singing with you!
- Sing songs with rhyming words, silly words, and long stretched out words.
- Clap along to the rhythms in songs to help your child hear the syllables in words.

### Read

Reading together is the single most important way to help children get ready to read. Reading increases vocabulary and general knowledge.

- Read together every day.
- Have books at home.
- Ask your child questions as you read and listen to the answers. Ask your child to retell the story when you've finished.

### Write

Writing and reading go together. Scribbling, drawing and forming letters can help children develop pre-reading skills.

- Give your child plenty of time to scribble and draw.
- Help your child write his/her name on drawings.
- Talk about your child's drawings and have your child make up stories to go along with them.

### Play

Play helps children think symbolically — that this item stands for this thing, which helps them understand that words can stand for real objects and experiences.

- Give your child lots of chances for free, unstructured play during the day.
- Have your child play with puppets or stuffed animals and make up stories about them.
- Have the child tell you a story based on the pictures in a book or have your child read you a book that you've read together many times.

**Visit your library and learn more about helping your child get ready to read!**