

Common PreK Milestones

Reading, writing, talking, singing, and playing together help your child grow and learn. While you're home together, watch for some of these key milestones in growing PreK readers. On the back, you'll find ideas for supporting them in their literacy development at home.

Language

Letters

- ▶ Know how to sing or say the alphabet.
- ▶ Recognize many letters, especially those in the child's own name.

Sounds

- ▶ Realize that letters have sounds.
- ▶ Know or can match the sounds of some letters to their written shapes.
- ▶ Enjoy songs and rhymes and make attempts at rhyming.
- ▶ Begin to remember and repeat all or parts of songs and rhymes.



Reading

Exploring Books

- ▶ Be aware that print tells you something.
- ▶ Enjoy listening to books and stories read aloud.
- ▶ Independently look through books.
- ▶ Know that pages of books are turned right to left.
- ▶ May "help" read by joining in on familiar parts.

Connecting With Books

- ▶ Enjoy books that relate to their daily lives and/or their own interests.
- ▶ Connect stories to their own lives.
- ▶ Point out familiar things in books.
- ▶ May begin to identify emotions of story characters and understand how they feel.
- ▶ Can answer questions about a book.
- ▶ May be ready for complex discussions about books, such as making predictions, recognizing problems, or understanding characters and their motivations.

Writing

- ▶ Try or pretend to read and write.
- ▶ Begin to draw letter shapes or copy letters when "writing."

Literacy Grows at Home

Children also become stronger readers the more time they spend reading. That includes choosing their own books and rereading favorites over and over again. Seeing you read encourages them, too, as does having books and magazines available to explore.

I Like to Read!

For young children, reading can look like many things: listening to you read aloud, sitting and looking at pictures, “reading” letters and sounds aloud, or telling their own version of the story. No matter how it looks, your child is gaining valuable literacy skills with each book he or she opens. The important thing is to keep on reading!



Reading Together

While your child is at home, reading aloud together every day will help build and grow his or her literacy skills.

Read-alouds should be fun, even silly! Here are some tips for making the most of read-aloud time:

Before

- ▶ Choose books together.
- ▶ Read the title, author, and illustrator.
- ▶ Point out letters or sounds in the title.
- ▶ Talk about the cover and what hints it gives about the story inside.

During

- ▶ Read with expression; ham it up!
- ▶ Try using different voices for different characters.
- ▶ Pause and ask questions from time to time.
- ▶ Don't worry about being perfect. Mistakes are ok!

After

- ▶ Discuss the story.
- ▶ Ask your child what new things he or she learned.
- ▶ Make connections between the story and real life, especially your child's experiences.

Literacy Builders

Build on your child's excitement about favorite books and songs using some of these extension ideas.

SILLY SONG SING-A-LONG Songs and rhymes are an important part of literacy development. Take a few moments to share some silly songs that you both know and love. Or look online for new children's rhymes and songs to listen to, and learn together. Don't be afraid to act silly, dance, and make up hand movements. Have fun!

PLAYFUL PUPPETS Find items around your home (empty boxes, cartons, magazines, string, tape or glue, plastic wrap or foil, sticks, and so on) to create some puppets together that resemble characters from your child's favorite book. Enjoy using the puppets to retell the story or to make up a new ending or sequel. You could even host a family puppet show!

RING! RING! READ ALOUD Have your child choose a favorite book to call or video chat about and read aloud to a loved one. If your child is comfortable, invite him or her to lead the read-aloud, telling the story in his or her own words. Remind your child that your audience wants to see the pictures, too!

