

BUILDING LITERACY SKILLS AT HOME



It is never too early (or late) to start doing literacy activities with your child. Strong literacy skills are essential for development and provide a foundation for school and work performance, social skills, and solving problems in all subject areas. Just a few minutes spent each day on simple literacy activities can add up to a lifelong love of reading and learning! These literacy-based activities are great for your preschool or early elementary age child.

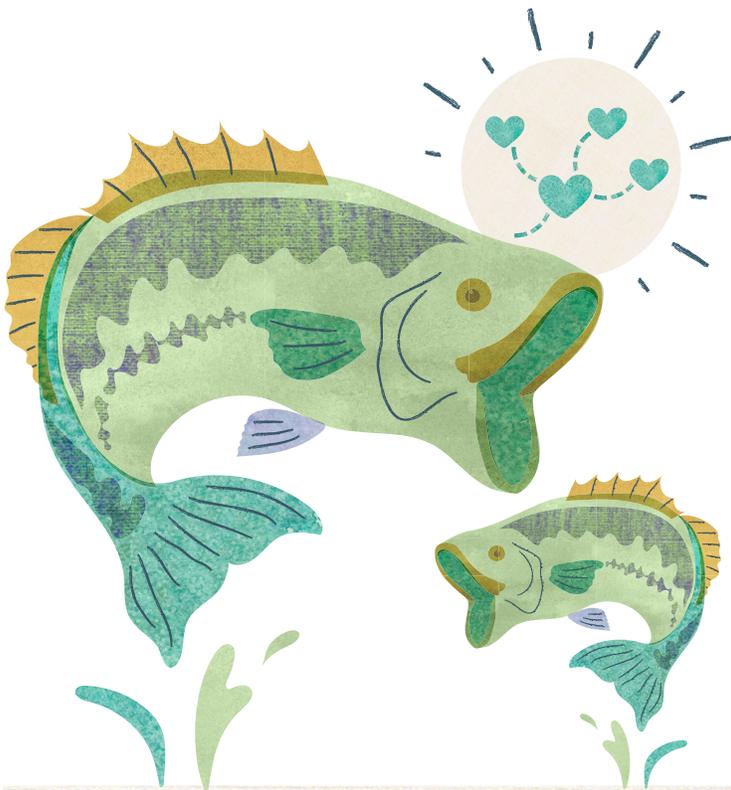
READING

♥ READ EVERY DAY!

Getting into the habit of reading every day for at least a few minutes is helpful for your child's development.

♥ THINK ALOUD AS YOU READ.

Point out what you see in the pictures. Talk to your children about what you are reading. What did they like about the story? What didn't they like?



WRITING, DRAWING, & CREATING

♥ EXPLORE FEELINGS.

Creativity and ideas can be expressed by drawing pictures.

♥ BE CREATIVE.

Paper, crayons, markers, glue, and even household items like noodles, boxes, and sponges can be great tools for creativity.

♥ MAKE STORIES.

Encourage your child to "tell stories" to you. Write their story down for them in a booklet (just a few pages of stapled paper is fine!), and have them illustrate their story.

♥ PLAY "FIRST, NEXT, LAST."

Have pictures of different scenes from stories you read, and have your child sequence the events using the pictures. Have them retell the story.

♥ PAINT WORDS WITH WATER.

Get a clean paintbrush and small bucket of plain water. Go outside and let your child paint letters or words on the walls, sidewalk, or fence.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

♥ BUILD VOCABULARY.

Talk with your child about everything. Describe the world around them in real (adult) terms.

♥ EXPLORE RHYMES AND SONGS.

These can expose new words and develop speaking skills.