



**Talk With Me**  
Early Language Services

# Building Early Literacy Skills

## Why work on Early Literacy?

Before children can read and write, they need to learn about sounds, words, language, books and stories.

This newsletter talks about three early literacy skills that children between 3-5 years old can learn:

- Words convey/have meaning
- Writing has rules
- Sounds can be played with



There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book. —**Frank Serafini**

## Showing that Words have Meaning



### Everyday

- Point to and read the words on your child's clothing/toys.
- Encourage your child to put their name on their artwork (also practices fine motor skills).
- When cooking, point to the recipe as you gather ingredients and follow the steps
- Read/talk about street sign

### While reading

- Point to the title as you read it; *this is the title of the book and its says...*
- Point to words that stand out (speech bubbles, big, bolded, etc) as you read them

# Ways to Build Literacy

## Playing with Sounds!

Here are a few ways to help your child start thinking about sounds:

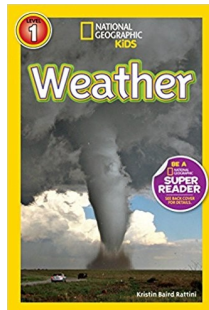
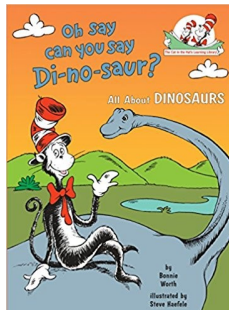
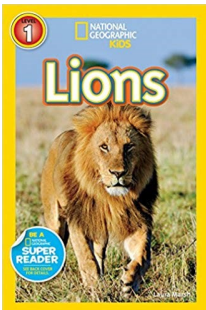
- While writing your child's name, talk about the sound a letter make as you write each one down
- Play "I Spy", but instead of colors the clue will be:
  - A Sound: I spy with my little eye something that starts with the "b" sound.
  - A Rhyming word: I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with "bear".
- Read books with lots of rhyming words. For example: Dr. Seuss books, 'Chicka Chicka Boom Boom', 'Sheep in a Jeep'. You can ask your librarian for help.

## Did you Know?

Children who are better at playing with the sounds and rhythms of a language become better readers and writers.



## Non Fiction Books



Unlike fairytales, non fiction books (books with facts) often have no story. These book can teach your child about many things: bugs, sea animals, dinosaurs, farming, etc...

Simple books with facts are appropriate for 3-5 year olds. Some children prefer factual books.

## Make Your Own Book

Staple two pieces of paper together and use markers, stickers, ribbon, photographs and/or pictures from a magazine to create a book at home.

Encourage your child to write words on their pages along with their pictures (scribbles count).

Things you can add on once your child has created a few simple books are:

- write their name on the first page - like all authors (*rules of writing*)
- Add more details: for example a setting (where the story takes place) (*rules of writing*)