

Family Literacy



Around the House

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During chores or daily activities talk about how what you're doing is similar to characters in books you've read. Or surf the Internet after reading to learn more about a topic in a book, such as an animal your child wants to know more about.

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When dressing, ask simple questions ("What do we call the clothes that cover our legs?") and challenging questions, ("Why do you need a coat today?"). Or at the grocery store ask simple questions and questions that require more thinking ("What kinds of things can we make with flour?").

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Out and About

- Say nursery rhymes and tongue twisters when you're waiting someplace or walking to the park. Here's one you can try: Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't very fuzzy, was he?
- In the car or on the bus, ask your child to talk about a favorite topic – a friend or family member, animals they are interested in, or a special place. See how many things your child can tell you about the topic.
- Play "I spy" at the grocery store or during errands. Say "I spy something that starts with a _____"
- When you're waiting at the doctor or in a long line, play the opposite game to strengthen basic vocabulary. Give a word and your child names the opposite – up/down, high/low, heavy/light.
- As you drive, ask your child to name letters in signs—"What is the first letter in McDonald's?"
- Talk about how words help you do things – like when you're ordering at a drive thru, explain that you're reading words on the menu. Point out letters in your environment like traffic signs, store names, or letters on magazines at the grocery checkout.

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Play

- “In play, adults do not interfere and children relax. Children express and work out emotional aspects of everyday experiences through unstructured play.”
- When adults facilitate literacy activity in the context of play, children respond warmly by following their lead and joining in reading and writing activity they might not otherwise have experiences.”
- Play is one of the primary ways young children learn about how the world works and learn language.
- Play helps children practice putting their thoughts into words.
- Play helps children think symbolically — that this item stands for this thing ("This box is a rocket ship!"), which helps them understand that words can stand for real objects or experiences.
- Play is how children practice becoming adults and process what they see and hear everyday.