

5 Activities for Building Reading Skills at Home

The ability to read does not come naturally, it takes practice!

All children need clear and organized instruction in five key areas in order to become proficient readers. Here are some activities you can do at home to support your child's literacy development.



1

BUILD PHONEMIC AWARENESS WITH RHYMING

Play rhyming games by separating the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in a word, then blending sounds together to make a word.

Example: The sounds /c/ /a/ and /t/ make the word cat. If you change the beginning /c/ sound in cat to a /h/ sound, what word does it make?

2

LEARN PHONICS THROUGH LETTERS

Practice identifying letters on signs as you walk the neighborhood, or search through the house for items that start with each letter/sound in the alphabet.

3

EXPAND VOCABULARY BY HAVING CONVERSATIONS

Encourage your child to learn new words and their meanings by providing exposure to a wide variety of books and experiences and talking about them. Also, explore words that have more than one meaning, like bat.

4

PRACTICE READING COMPREHENSION WITH Q&AS

Ask questions about the books you read together that require more than a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Discuss the story and help your child make connections between the book and personal experiences.

5

MODEL FLUENCY BY READING MORE!

Model fluent reading, encouraging repeated reading of familiar texts, and providing opportunities for oral reading practice.



What is the Science of Reading?

The Science of Reading is based on research about how children learn to read. It focuses on key skills like recognizing letters and sounds, understanding words and sentences, and building vocabulary. By teaching these skills in a structured way, it helps kids become confident, lifelong readers. The following are the five components of reading:



Phonemic Awareness

The ability to hear and play with the individual sounds in spoken words.



Reading Comprehension

This skill involves understanding and using the information in what you read. Being able to think about and answer questions from a book helps us know a child is understanding, or has reading comprehension.



Phonics

Understanding the link between letters and sounds. Teaching children phonics enables them to decode words by connecting sounds with letters and spelling patterns.



Fluency

Fluent readers can read smoothly without too many mistakes and can add voice and expression while they read that matches what is happening in the story.



Vocabulary

Knowing what words mean and how to use them correctly. A strong vocabulary is key to comprehension and overall reading achievement.

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