

Sight Words

Learning “sight words” (words that appear often in beginning reading books) will help your kindergartener become a better, more confident reader.

To help your child learn sight words, write each word on an index card and go over them together. Start by focusing on just a few words, and add new words as you go. *Be sure to keep the learning playful and fun!*

Here are 30 sight words your child should know by the end of the year.

a	come	in	my	this
am	do	is	no	to
an	go	it	on	up
and	he	like	see	we
at	here	look	so	went
can	I	me	the	you

If you ever have concerns about your child’s progress, or if you’re looking for additional ways to help build your child’s reading skills at home, talk to your child’s teacher. *When parents and teachers work together, great things can happen.*

Your support and involvement are key to your child’s success in school!



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Building Reading Skills

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Building Reading Skills



Letters, Sounds, and Words

Share a love of reading

Visit the library on a regular basis

- ▶ Take part in library reading programs and story hours.
- ▶ Get your child his/her own library card and help choose books to check out. (Dr. Seuss books are great for this age.)

Make reading important in your home

- ▶ Encourage family members to give books as gifts for birthdays and other occasions.
- ▶ Designate a special place in your home to store your child’s books.
- ▶ Seek out age-appropriate magazines such as *Highlights for Children* or *ZooBooks*.
- ▶ Have a special reading time for all family members.
- ▶ Be a good role model. Read newspapers, books, and magazines for information and pleasure, and talk about what you’ve read. *“I read a really interesting article today about...”*
- ▶ Develop a reading routine, such as reading a bedtime story to your child each night.



Building Reading Skills

A strong foundation in reading will help set your child up for success in elementary school—and beyond.

Kindergarteners spend a good deal of time in school developing the skills they need to read. As your kindergartener works on these skills in school, there are a number of things you can do at home to help further develop your child's reading skills.

The activities presented here take very little time and are easy to do. Enjoy this exciting time as your child begins to discover the joy of reading!

Kindergarteners have a wide range of reading skills, and their skills develop at varying rates. At this age, learning should be playful and fun—and children should always feel good about what they are able to do.

Read aloud to your child

Reading books together expands vocabulary, stimulates the imagination, and teaches children to listen. It also nurtures a special bond between you and your child.

As you read, talk about the story and the pictures. Ask questions, such as:

"What do you think will happen next?"

"What would you do?"

Connect your child's experiences to what's happening in the story. *"She has a dog just like we do. Do you think her dog is as big as our dog?"*

As you read, move your finger under the words to help your child learn that words go from top to bottom and left to right.

Look for words in everyday life

Increase your child's interest in reading by showing that words are all around us.

- ▶ When driving, look for familiar words on street signs, store fronts, and billboards.
- ▶ Throughout the day (e.g., while watching TV, playing games, running errands, shopping), point out words your child might know.

Practice letters, sounds, and words

These activities will help your child learn letters and sounds, and understand how letters make words.

- ▶ Read an ABC picture book and practice the sound each letter makes.
- ▶ Spell simple words with refrigerator magnets.
- ▶ Play "I spy." *"I spy a lamp. Can you think of a word that starts with the same sound as lamp?"* Take turns spying an object and coming up with a word that starts with the same letter sound.
- ▶ Put a few familiar words on paper squares and help arrange them into a simple sentence.

I	can	run
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- ▶ When you're riding in a car or taking a walk, play a rhyming word game. *"I see a cat. Can you think of a word that rhymes with cat?"*

Retelling Stories

A critical part of the reading process is being able to retell a story. Ask your child to retell a familiar story such as *The Three Bears*, or flip through a favorite picture book and have your child retell the story in his/her own words.