

# Families

## Reading and Writing at Home

### PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Families support children in becoming readers and writers beginning at birth. Children learn from the adults and other children in the house about words, conversations, and reading through everyday experiences like reading together, talking about the day at dinner, and watching adults make a list for the grocery store. Families play a crucial role in children learning to read and write.

Right now families are the core support for children with schools being closed and/or major interruptions in schooling. Parents, older siblings, and other family members can do activities together that support and grow children in reading and writing abilities. When families enjoy experiences together, the child thrives on the motivation and support of learning with those that matter most to them in life. How can families offer young children opportunities for reading and writing while minimizing stress and anxiety at home?

There are 4 Big Ideas in literacy that are important for parents to focus on. In school, teachers focus on standards and a yearlong curriculum of learning activities. At home, if families focus their thinking on ensuring the 4 Big Ideas happen every day, you will support your children's academic learning in reading and writing.

#### 4 Big Ideas in Literacy Development:

1. **Talking:** have conversations with your children as speaking and listening are important everyday activities
2. **Imagining:** ask children questions and provide experiences that support their expressing ideas they are thinking about, imagining, and creating
3. **Reading:** read to children; read together; have children read by themselves to their teddy bear, or younger sibling
4. **Writing:** Children can draw, paint and write with adults and by themselves; tell stories orally, dictate them to others who write them down, and write stories down themselves in time

Below are a few activities and ways you can carry out and support the 4 Big Ideas at home. We recommend that you pick the activities that are the best fit for your family and the age of your children.

| Activity  | Wonderings & Learning  | Online Tools  |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Read and talk about a book</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parents/older children read aloud</li> <li>- Family story time where you read picture books or read a chapter book together over a week or two</li> <li>- Consider finding a book online that everyone can listen to together</li> <li>- After reading the book, talk about the story</li> <li>- Set aside time for children to read by themselves (All children can enjoy books but usually first grade and older will sit for a long period reading. Think about your child and what is appropriate for them.)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What kind of stories do your children like?</li> <li>○ Is there a topic your child or family wants to learn more about?</li> <li>○ Is there a book from your childhood that you want to share with your children?</li> </ul> <p>What children learn from being read to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They learn about reading by listening to stories being read aloud</li> <li>- For children who can read print: the more they read, the better readers they will be</li> <li>- Understanding about stories when you discuss the story</li> <li>- By listening to stories and/or reading out loud, children's speaking and listening skills grow</li> </ul> | <p>Your public library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check for access to online resources like e books</li> <li>- Many libraries also have subscriptions to other platforms for book like Tumblebooks</li> </ul> <p>Tumblebooks.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- E books and audio books</li> <li>- free subscription until August 2020</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Telling stories to and with children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tell your children stories about your childhood</li> <li>- Tell stories to your children from when they were babies</li> <li>- Tell stories about your family (some are tall tales by now)</li> <li>- Make up stories together</li> <li>- Look at photos and talk about them</li> <li>- Draw pictures of scenes from stories you are telling and write them down</li> <li>- Record stories to listen to again (use video or audio recording on phone)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is the most important celebration in your family?</li> <li>○ What memories would you like to save in a book?</li> <li>○ What stories do you want your children to know?</li> </ul> <p>What children learn from family story telling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Listening and speaking skills</li> <li>- Developing an ever-expanding way to understand the meaning of certain events, decisions, changes in the family (when we moved, when a family member is born)</li> <li>- Interest and engagement in telling and listening to stories</li> </ul>  | <p>imovie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to make a movie of your story</li> <li>- free app from Apple</li> </ul>  |

| Activity  | Learning   | Online Tools  |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Painting, Drawing &amp; Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have children keep a daily journal to draw and write about 1 event or idea each day</li> <li>- Pick a project (make a book like a comic book, number book)</li> <li>- Write, draw and document something happening in your house (growing a garden, taking care of a pet, ideas about a book you are reading)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What activities are you doing that you can draw and write about? The garden, birds, weather changing, changes in the clouds each day, or the moon</li> <li>○ What books does your child like to read? Draw and write simple books like those.</li> </ul> <p>What children are learning from drawing and writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading skills</li> <li>- How pictures and print work</li> <li>- Concepts of print like putting letters together to make words and the sounds each letter makes</li> <li>- Spelling, grammar</li> </ul> | <p><a href="https://www.jimgill.com/">https://www.jimgill.com/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ideas for making <i>May There Always Be</i> book</li> </ul> <p>Toontastic 3D app</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Structured concepts to help in telling and writing a story</li> </ul> <p>Book Creator (\$4.99)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- children write their own stories</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Sing Songs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Songs from your childhood</li> <li>- Current songs you love in your house</li> <li>- Nursery rhymes</li> <li>- Hand clapping chants with movements</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How can we change the songs (change words, put our names in the song)?</li> <li>○ Can we make up a dance to go with the song?</li> </ul> <p>What children are learning from singing songs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speaking and listening</li> <li>- Playing with language and sounds</li> </ul>   | <p>Go Noodle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- free songs and dances</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Play Games</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board games like checkers, chess, Chutes and Ladders, tic tack toe, dominoes, war and other card games</li> <li>- Outdoor games like 4 square and jump rope</li> <li>- Charades, Simon Says, I spy, 20 Questions, make an obstacle course (indoor or outdoor)</li> <li>- Make puzzles</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What games are good fit for the age of your child(ren)?</li> </ul> <p>What children are learning from playing of all kinds of group games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social skills like following rules/directions and taking turns</li> <li>- Thinking skills; strategies, logic – how things work</li> <li>- Speaking and listening skills</li> </ul>  | <p><a href="#">Printable dominoes</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Or just make them with paper (that’s an activity in itself)</li> </ul> <p>Many online gaming websites and apps</p>   |

| Activity  | Learning  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Art and Crafts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use materials from around the house like containers from food, scrape paper from mail, newspapers, and magazines</li> <li>- Water colors, crayons, colored pencils, oil pastels to draw and experiment</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What materials do you have in your house?</li> <li>○ What are you about to throw away or recycle? Can it be used to create something?</li> <li>○ Is there a book, photo or story that is important to your child to use as a springboard for a project?</li> </ul> <p>What children are learning from creating projects using recyclable materials from your home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to imagine, create, ask questions</li> <li>- Build, create meaning out of new materials</li> <li>- Practice in speaking and listening – young children cannot get enough of this! It is hugely important that they are encouraged and supported in expressing their ideas</li> </ul> |

## Additional Resources

Seven Research-Based Ways That Families Promote Early Literacy by Margaret Caspe and M. Elena Lopez (September 2017) from Global Family Research Project

[https://globalfrp.org/content/download/88/593/file/Early+Literacy+Brief\\_Final.pdf](https://globalfrp.org/content/download/88/593/file/Early+Literacy+Brief_Final.pdf)

Why Reading to Your Kids in Your Home Language Will Help Them Become Better Readers by Lydia Breiseth from Colorín Colorado (available in Spanish, link below)

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/why-reading-your-kids-your-home-language-will-help-them-become-better-readers>

Por qué leerles a sus hijos en español los ayudará a ser mejores lectores

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/es/articulo/por-qu%C3%A9-leerles-sus-hijos-en-espa%C3%B1ol-los-ayudar%C3%A1-ser-mejores-lectores>

Visit Colorín Colorado Website page Help Your Child Learn to Read for more articles (available in Spanish, link below) <https://www.colorincolorado.org/help-your-child-learn-read>

Ayude a su niño a aprender a leer

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/es/families/ayude-su-ni%C3%B1o-aprender-leer>

## Online Resources

### \*Indianapolis Public Library

<https://www.indypl.org/srp>

Summer Reading Programs and interactive read alouds for children

### \*Reading Rockets

<https://www.readingrockets.org/>

Reading Rockets is a national public media literacy initiative offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help. Resources to help struggling *readers* build phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills

### \*Scholastic

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activities/teaching-content/listen-and-read-read-along-books/>

Captivate your early learners with these 15-nonfiction *read*-along books. Grades. PreK–K, 1–2. Activity Type. **Listen and Read** Activities ...

### \*Storyline Online

<https://www.storylineonline.net/about-us/>

Storyline Online is a children's literacy website created by the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, which provides free storytelling videos and resources for parents and teachers to foster a love of reading in children.

### \*Tumble Books Library

<https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fHome.aspx%3fcategoryID%3d77&categoryID=77>

Tumble Books are animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love. Tumble Book Library takes existing picture books, adding animation, sound, music and narration to produce an electronic picture book. You can read it, or have it read to you.

### \*Tumble Books- Read Watch and Learn

<https://www.tumblebooks.com/>

**Tumble Books** - Read Watch Learn! TumbleBookLibrary is a curated database of children's e-**books**, available by subscription to Elementary Schools and Public Libraries around the world. ... Subscriptions are affordable and EASY to use and include tools to simplify your kids' access from home as well as from your building.

\***Free subscription** until the end of August