



## Ready, Set, Read

Reading together with your child can be so much fun.

Reading is also an important building block for school readiness. Children who read more before Kindergarten are better prepared for school and often display greater confidence and a more positive attitude toward learning.

Reading helps your child:

- learn new words and develop language skills such as listening and understanding
- develop early literacy skills, and learn to recognize letters and sounds
- improve their attention span and focus and build strong listening skills
- understand and manage their emotions, fostering empathy and social understanding
- think critically and learn how to solve problems
- develop imagination and creativity, encouraging children to think beyond their immediate surroundings and envision new possibilities.
- learn about new concepts and ideas, building knowledge

Reading regularly with your child is a great way to create strong bonds and share **special experiences**. Incorporating reading into a child's routine from an early age not only sets the **stage for academic success but also fosters a lifelong love of learning**. It's an investment that pays off in countless ways throughout your child's educational journey.

[Check out the other side of this letter for some fun “reading” tips and activities!](#)



Illinois' Annual Family Reading Night is November 16th, 2023  
Check to see if your community library or school is doing something special to celebrate!



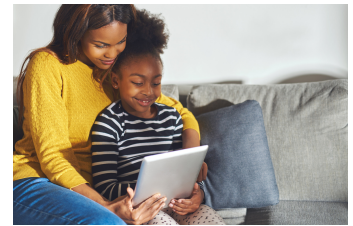
# Fun Reading and Early Literacy Activities to Do With Your Child

## Read Together



**Read together every day** and every where. Read books, signs, labels and logos. Give everything a name Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects.

**Make reading fun.** Help books come alive. Change your voice as you read. Stop and ask your child what they think will come next or have them fill in the blanks. Point out words they see every day. If they have a favorite book, have them "read" it to you



## Play Together



### Alphabet Playdoh

Have your child make different letters with playdoh .Write a letter on a piece of paper and have them form the playdoh to match the letter.

### Alphabet Search

When in the car, or out walking, ask your child to search for a letter of the alphabet. Whoever finds the letter gets to choose the next letter to find.

### Act Out Stories/ Dramatic Play

Encourage your child to act out one of the stories. Use dress up clothes and props. Have them create their own story.



### I Spy

Use language-based clues, such as "I spy something that starts with T" or "I spy something that rhymes with 'duck'." If that isn't enough information for your child, add more details, such as "I spy something that starts with 'T' and has four big wheels" (a truck).



### PBS Kids

Check out <https://pbskids.org> For FREE educational online games and more activity ideas

### Label Common Objects

Use index cards, labels, or pieces of poster board to print the names of common items in your home. Make two sets, attaching one to the items and giving the other to your child to use for play. Don't push your child to match the two sets; the idea is to get the child familiar with the look of the words for common items, eventually making the connection on their own.