

Sept 15, 2014



READ TO YOUR CHILDREN! **They will learn a lot more than you may think.**

“Emergent literacy skills” are skills that babies, toddlers, and preschoolers need to learn so that they are ready for reading and writing when they start school. These skills include vocabulary, book-handling skills, story-telling skills, scribbling and drawing, recognizing print and understanding what it is for, and singing and rhyming.

When you read with your child every day, you are helping your child to develop strong emergent literacy and language skills. It can also help teach them about story structure, sequencing, and rhyming. How you read makes a difference too. Don't just read the words. Pause a lot to notice what your child is interested in and to talk about the pictures and the story. Ask questions like; Who is in this story? What is the problem? What will happen next? Read the same story many times and talk about different things each time. Point out the words and the pictures. Make sound effects and funny voices.

Children can learn lots of new words from books. They also learn to listen in a way that TV and computer games can never teach. Remember too that you are a role model for your child; if you read and show that you care about reading, your child learns that reading is important.

Children who are read to are more likely to pick up books themselves and read for themselves. We want children to love books, so never force your child to read. Books with flaps and things to touch and move can be great for reluctant readers.

Reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for laying the foundation for literacy and learning. But rhymes, poems, songs, crayons, clay, painting, menus, and signs can play a role as well. The key is for you to share these activities with your child and talk about them.

Read to your child! Talk to your child! Then read and talk some more! You will be setting your child up for success at school and in life.

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development, call the Language Express Preschool Speech System at 1-888-503-8885 / 613-283-2742. A speech-language assessment can identify your child's strengths and needs, and can help you prepare your child for success in communicating, reading and writing. For more information, check out our website: www.language-express.ca