



Getting ready to read involves many skills. Some children learn these skills earlier and more quickly than other children, just like children learn to walk and talk at different ages.

When you use the five **Every Child Ready to Read** practices, you can help your children learn important pre-reading skills that are appropriate for their ages and interests.

The **Five** best ways to help your child get ready to read are:

1. **Talking:** Children learn language by listening to their parents and others talk. As they hear spoken words, children learn. How individual words sound, which helps them decode words. What words mean, which increases their vocabulary. How words can be put together to communicate ideas and information, which leads to comprehension.
2. **Singing:** Songs are a natural way to learn about language. Songs help children develop listening skills and pay attention to the rhythms and rhymes of spoken language. Most songs have a different note for each syllable. This helps children break down words so they hear individual sounds in a word. Singing also slows down language so children can hear different parts of words and notice how they are alike and different. Clapping along to rhythms helps children hear the syllables in words and helps them improve motor skills. Singing also helps children learn new words which adds to their general knowledge.
3. **Reading:** No matter what your child's age, reading together—or shared reading—is the single most important activity that you can do to help your child get ready to read. Shared reading is valuable because your child has your full attention, and you are enjoying the experience together. Shared reading helps a child develop a love of reading and an appreciation of books. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read themselves. A child's interest in reading is an important predictor of later reading achievement. Further, reading together and talking about what you read, increases children's vocabulary and background knowledge. It helps children learn how books work and how written language looks, which gives them an understanding of how stories are organized—that they have a beginning, middle, and end.

4. **Writing:** Reading and writing go together. Both are ways to represent spoken words to communicate information or tell stories. Children become aware that printed letters stand for spoken words as they see print used in their daily lives. They see parents and others read newspapers, food labels, road signs, and mail. They watch caregivers write lists, jot down reminders, or make notes on a calendar. Children develop a knowledge of the purpose and meaning of reading through writing.
5. **Playing:** Pretend and dramatic play develop language skills. Pretend play helps children think symbolically and develop oral language skills. As children play store or pretend to be an animal, they talk about what they're doing. They practice putting thoughts into words. Dramatic play helps develop narrative skills as children make up a story about what they're doing. This helps them understand that stories happen in an order: first, next, last. Make-believe also gives children a chance to act out real-life situations, work through worries and fears, and use their imagination to solve problems. Play helps children feel a sense of accomplishment and self-confidence. This motivates them to try new experiences and to not give up when something seems difficult.

Talk with your child to develop language and literacy skills. Here are ten chances to chat during the day:

- Morning routines
- In the Car
- Waiting in Line
- Before a Nap
- Cooking Dinner
- During Meals
- At the Store
- Out on a Walk
- At Bath Time
- Before Bedtime



Visit Your Library and Get Every Child a Library Card!

At the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library there are programs and items to check out for children to play and learn:

- Story times (Weekly events—see our website: <https://www.fpl.info/services/kids>)
- Family Concerts (Music & Movement)
- Launchpads (Fun, Learning, pre-loaded Tablets)
- Backpacks (book & audio player pack)
- And more...

Toddle Time

Fridays • 10 AM

A fun, play-filled time with stories, songs, instruments, and more as they socialize and develop their early literacy skills.

