



## Early Literacy: Creating a Book Lover



## Read to Your Child Every Day

This simple act will make an extraordinary difference in your child's life. Keep lots of books in your home so one is always handy. Use the library's collection to boost your home bookcase.

The benefits of daily reading are significant in so many ways – bonding time, absorbing early literacy skills, exploring and processing our world, learning language, and the list goes on and on.

You can track how many books you are reading to your little one in the library's **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** program, and get up to 4 free books for your child!

## What are Early Literacy Skills?

Early literacy skills are the skills children learn naturally through playing, talking, coloring and writing, singing, and listening to books. These skills provide them with the necessary tools to be ready to learn to read in Kindergarten.

As a parent or caregiver, you can encourage development of these skills every day by getting down on your child's level to play or draw, reading books aloud, narrating your day with positive language, singing, dancing, and creating things. You can make up silly rhymes or play a game to find a certain shape or color around the house. Clap, smile and have fun!

If your child is mishandling a book, try not to say "no" or "don't." Instead, remove the book gently saying, "Let's be careful with this." Replace it with a sturdy board book that is less likely to be damaged. Create positive vibes around books.



A **toddler's brain** creates up to **two million** new connections every second.



# Where Do We Start?

## Finding Good Books

### Search the Library Catalog

[www.MHKlibrary.org](http://www.MHKlibrary.org)

Always feel free to ask a librarian for help finding great books!

For a large selection of titles, type "early literacy" as a keyword search. More than 1700 titles are available in board books and hardcover picture books that target ages 0-3, found in our Early Literacy Center in the Children's Room.

### Websites with Booklists

#### CLEL Bell Book Award

[www.clel.org](http://www.clel.org)

Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) chooses the best picture books for reading aloud to children ages 0-5. It's the perfect place to jot down some new titles to try. Click on CLEL Bell Awards for winners and shortlists.

#### Reading Is Fundamental

[www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)

Find booklists by themes in RIF's Literacy Central section. Choose from categories such as Alphabet or Folklore. Many books have the option to download a guide for other activities to do with your child related to the book.

## Media and Online Resources for PreK

### Digital Storybooks & eBooks

No time to come in to the library? Enter these portals through the library's webpage under "Online Resources." You may need to enter your library card number and password.

BookFLIX

Hoopla (Kids Mode)

TumbleBooks

(Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/NOGp7DGUw-I>)

### StoryBlocks

[www.storyblocks.org](http://www.storyblocks.org)

Have you forgotten those rhymes and songs of childhood? Watch as a librarian sings and does actions so you can become a pro. Videos are available in English & other languages.

### Unite for Literacy

[www.uniteforliteracy.com](http://www.uniteforliteracy.com)

Fiction and nonfiction picture books with audio, including narration in 40+ languages.

## Get 4 Free Books!

Go to [www.MHKlibrary.org](http://www.MHKlibrary.org), click on Events, and then look under Special Events to find **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**.

Sign up your pre-k children (ages 0-5) online. You can also call or visit the library to get registered.

You will track your reading online or on a mobile device using the Beanstack system.

Visit the library and choose a free book for your child when you reach 200, 500, 700, and 1000 Books!

## Learn More

### Reading Rockets

[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

Click on the tab for Parents to find great reading tips that change with your child's age.

### Zero to Three

[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)

Lots of great information for parents and caregivers. Look for the powerful short video "32 Million Words."

### "Library Preschool Storytimes: Developing Early Literacy Skills in Children"

by Judy MacLean (2008)

<https://tinyurl.com/y2a4ozk3>

## Books in the Library's Parent & Teacher Resource Center:

*Children's Book-a-Day Almanac*

by Anita Silvey (2012)

011.62 Silvey

*Playful Learning: Develop Your Child's Sense of Joy and Wonder*

by Mariah Bruehl (2011)

155.4 Bruehl

*The Read-Aloud Handbook, 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.,*

by Jim Trelease (2019)

372.452 Trelease

## EARLY LITERACY PRACTICES

5 simple practices will help your child absorb and master early literacy skills. Just remember:

- ① READ
- ② WRITE
- ③ TALK
- ④ SING
- ⑤ PLAY



Manhattan  
Public Library

Register your child at <https://bit.ly/3ql0vpQ>!

Questions? Email [kidstaff@MHKlibrary.org](mailto:kidstaff@MHKlibrary.org) or call (785) 776-4741 ext. 400.