

Beginning Literacy Development at Home



Literacy development, like all language learning, **begins at birth**. It is a continuous process that **starts in the home** with the parent playing a key role as the guide along the road to literacy.

Here are some things parents can do to **promote development of beginning literacy skills**:

1. Children **see others** reading and writing every day.

They may see their parents reading:

- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Recipe books
- Novels
- Dictionary
- T.V. Guide

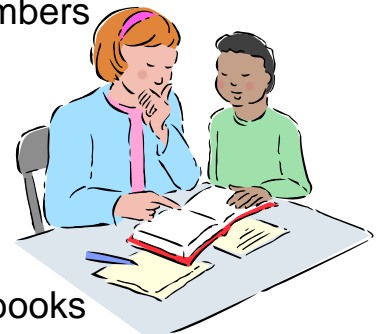
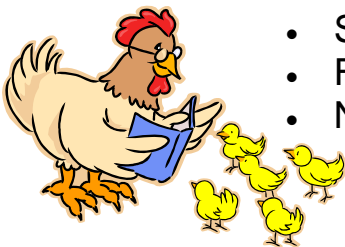


They may see their parents writing:

- Personal letters
- Business letters
- Grocery list
- 'To do' list
- Cheques
- Notes to family members

2. Parents provide opportunities for children to enjoy many kinds of books

- Stories
- Fairy Tales
- Nursery Rhymes
- Alphabet books
- Info books
- Taped stories with books



3. Encourage your children to write, and **show interest** to the printed message whether it's a **squiggle**, scribble, letters, or **words**.

Have them **print their name** on their paintings, drawings, and greeting cards.



Visit your local library for lots of **FREE BOOKS!**

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4. Explore books with **sound play** (rhymes, words starting with same sounds, etc.)

Draw attention to the sounds in words, for example:

- “House.... Mouse... those words rhyme.”
- “Big bumble bee... those words all start with *buh*”
- “Tyranasaurus... that’s a big, long word”
- “Jack and Jill... both start with the letter *J*”

5. **Point out letters and words in the child’s environment.** Examples are:



- Child’s name on bedroom wall
- Alphabet wallpaper border in room
- Posters with printed captions
- Labels on cans, cereal boxes, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.
- Clothes that have logos (Toronto Maple Leafs, Nike, etc.)
- Alphabet noodles, alphabet cereal
- Mail
- Road signs, billboards, restaurant signs.



6. **Make sure your children writing and drawing materials at hand:**

- Pencils
- Pens
- Markers
- Crayons
- Chalk
- Paper
- Notebooks
- Colouring books
- Magic doodle
- Chalk board



Borrow books and toys from the Ontario Early Years Resource and Toy Lending!