

Early literacy skills to explore while reading books with your child:

Phonological awareness is hearing the sounds within words and being able to break those sounds apart. They are all skills you can practice in the dark (or car, on a bike ride, or while taking a walk).

- Rhyming (notice rhyming pairs, create rhyming pairs with names, help children matching rhyming words)
- Syllables (count syllables, clap syllables, delete syllables in words)
- Phonemes (this is a high level skill and comes as children enter kindergarten or later, notice first sounds in words, match words with same beginning sounds, notice ending sounds, match words with ending sounds)
- Babies and Toddlers begin practicing this skill through rhyming songs like Twinkle Twinkle and having rhyming words and syllables modeled for them
- Preschoolers develop these skills through modeling, repeating after you, and making up their own rhymes.

Print awareness is simply knowing that letters, words, and numbers have a purpose

- Point to the text as you read
- Talk about the words on the cover and find familiar letters as you read
- Talk about the front and back of the book, the title, and how we read from left to right, top to bottom, and front to back.

Vocabulary as you read, you are exposing your child to new and rich words on every page.

- Take time to explain new words to your child using short, child friendly explanations
- If you come across a word you don't know, say that, and work together to find the definition together
- Use new words throughout the day with your child. This gives them context to draw from when trying out the word themselves.

Narrative is the ability to tell the events of a story in order, including the characters and setting.

- Work together to identify the characters in stories as you read.
- Talk about the setting of the story
- After you read, summarize the story events in order using words such as first, next, then, and last.

- Sequencing story events will translate into more skill in early math skills

Number Sense finding ways to talk about math concepts as you read.

- Find number symbols on the page
- Count different objects in the illustrations or the number of letters or words in the title.
- Point out number symbols and words as you read
- Incorporate math language as you read:
- Quantitative language-More than, less than, taller, shorter
- Spatial language- over, under, above, next to, beside