

Fun activities to help children learn

Literacy begins at home

Are you a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, older brother or sister? Here are fun activities to do with young children. These activities can help them become successful learners.

1 Share books early and often

You can start sharing books right away. Try to share books every day. For example, at bedtime or naptime.

- Babies like to look at books with simple, colourful pictures.
- Toddlers can help turn pages and lift flaps.
- Preschoolers can say words with you when you read a favourite book.



You help young children learn pre-reading skills when you share books together.

2 Do rhymes and sing songs

Children will learn new words from rhymes and songs.



It is okay if you don't sing well. Children will love your voice!

3 Talk about everyday things

Talk often with young children. They learn language that way. For example:

- Talk while you do things.
- Tell family stories.



- Point to simple signs. Children get excited when they can recognize a sign. They get excited about reading.

It is important to talk often to babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.



4 Play together

Children like to touch and play.



- Play together with toys or simple things around the house.
- Play with water.
- Play with puppets.
- Do simple puzzles.



Enjoy playing together. Children can learn language when they play with you.

5 Scribble, draw, do crafts

Young children like to draw pictures, paint, and make crafts.



- Playdough is fun. Make shapes, objects, and letters together.
- Get simple art supplies: children's paints and paint brushes, large crayons and markers. Make sure they are non-toxic and washable. Save paper, cards, and cardboard to make art together.
- Display children's art.

Children learn pre-writing skills when they scribble, draw, and do arts and crafts.

6 Enjoy nature together

Have fun outside. Talk about what you see and do. You can go to parks, beaches, playgrounds, zoos, nature centres, and outdoor festivals.

- Name things that you see.
- Take a blanket and some toys.
- Take photos.



Help children learn about the world around them.

Adapted from Learning Together Every Day booklets • Photos: lift flap: Maureen Sanders; baby in woods: Dennis Swayze; other photos: Bev Burke • Book illustrations: Guy Parsons

Learning Together Every Day

You can find more activities to do with young children. Go to: www.helpingchildrenlearn.ca

You can read the free booklets online, or you can download and print them.



The booklets are in easy-to-read English. Photos show parents and children doing the activities together.