

# Ontario Early Years, York North

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## Ten Best Practices for Promoting Early Literacy Development in Young Children

Early literacy is developing the skills to be able to read, write, listen and speak. These skills begin developing right from birth. Here are ten best practices for parents and caregivers to do with children to promote early literacy development.

### Talk to your child



Children learn about words by hearing and doing. Use new words, ask questions, explain what is going on, listen to your child's response, repeat what your child says and say it correctly when talking.

From birth, make reading a daily activity. Reading supports vocabulary and knowledge. Have books accessible. Read together and talk about what you read. Visit your local library to borrow age-appropriate books.



### Read with your child



### Sing to your child

Sing songs to your child. Songs are a natural way to learn about language, and music makes words easy to remember. Clap along to rhythms to allow children to hear the syllables in the words.

Children's language is enhanced when they are exposed to rhymes. Rhymes help children develop the ability to recognize and break words into smaller parts.

### Say rhymes with your child



### Support the development of your child's fine motor ability



By developing fine motor skills you prepare your child for writing. Play with activities that strengthen their shoulder, arm and wrist. Use playdough, stickers, magnets on the refrigerator, paint at an easel, playground equipment, puzzles and building blocks.

Once a child can grasp a thick crayon, create many opportunities to hold and use writing implements such as large crayons, pencils and markers, chalk, and paintbrushes. Join your child in making lines, circles, pictures and words. Talk to your child about their picture, ask questions and praise their work.



## Write with your child

## Join your child in play



Join in your child's play and talk about what your child is interested in. Play is one of the best ways for children to learn language and literacy skills. Ask open ended questions during play, and follow your child's lead when joining their play.

Games promote the development of language, turn-taking, memory, matching, patterning, sorting, counting, reading and social skills. Enjoy playing Peek-a-boo with an infant, I Spy with a toddler and memory card games with a preschooler.

## Play games with your child



## Limit TV and Computer access for your child



The most important time for strong brain development is from birth to three years of age. When children have direct interactions with parents and caregivers they are building their ready to learn skills. Enjoy your child's ability to explore, imagine and experiment which sets them on the path to success in school.

Visit us to play and learn, get resources and answers to your parenting questions from OEYC Early Learning Educators. Learn how to contact Preschool Speech and Language, Early Intervention Services and many more supportive organizations.

## Know your accessible community resources to support your child's development milestones

### Ontario Early Years Centres



A Place For Parents And Their Children.