



# Helping your child develop language and literacy skills

Here are some tips to help you help your child develop language skills and be a successful reader.

## For infants, toddlers and preschoolers:

- Talk to your child often. Even responding to a baby's babbling is helping her learn.
- Read aloud every day from books with words and big bright pictures.
- Sing songs, do rhymes, and play language games.

## For school-age children:

- Encourage conversations with your child.
- Explore the meanings of words and play word games.
- Let your child read to you and ask what he thinks might happen next in the story.
- Ask your child what she thinks the book will be about based on the title or the cover then read to find out.

## Head Start and pre-K programs

Children can spend time in a learning environment before kindergarten by enrolling in a local public school pre-K or Head Start program. These programs are free and will help your child learn reading and math. Parents are encouraged to get involved in their children's learning as well as make progress on their own educational goals.

- To find a Head Start program visit [www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org) or call free of charge 1-866-763-6481.
- To find a pre-K program, contact your state's department of education or the local school board.

## More resources

- National Literacy Directory [www.nationalliteracydirectory.org](http://www.nationalliteracydirectory.org) Helps you find literacy programs in your area to serve children and adults.
- National Center for Family Literacy [www.familit.org](http://www.familit.org) Free stuff for parents and kids including a literacy calendar ([www.familit.org/free-resources/family-resources](http://www.familit.org/free-resources/family-resources)) and an interactive Literacy House ([www.familit.org/free-resources/activities/house/](http://www.familit.org/free-resources/activities/house/)).
- Thinkfinity [www.thinkfinity.org](http://www.thinkfinity.org) Parent resources like free online classes like "Selecting and Sharing Books," plus activities, games and more.