

Simple, everyday activities to help develop your child's literacy skills

STANDARD: Plays With Sounds and Words

- ☐ **IDENTIFY SOUNDS** Point out the beginning sound in your child's name. "Sofia starts with the sss sound. Let's see what we can find that starts with sss. Listen, *soup* starts with sss!"
- ☐ **NAME AND CLAP** Invite your child to point to an object. Tell its name and then clap the syllables. "That is our window. Let's clap the word *window*!" Clap once for each syllable: *win-dow*.

STANDARD: Uses New Vocabulary

- ☐ **LEARN VOCABULARY** Talk with your child about what is happening around you. In the store, say: "Look at those bright yellow lemons! Which lemon should we pick?" And in the car, say: "The traffic light tells us when to stop and when to go."
- ☐ **USE VOCABULARY** You can ask your child questions to encourage using a variety of words. For example: "My favorite treat is a sweet and juicy pear. How would you describe your favorite treat?"

STANDARD: Understands Spoken Language

- ☐ **ASK AND ANSWER QUESTIONS** Ask your child *who*, *what*, *where*, and *how* questions throughout the day. For example: "Who tucks you into bed?" "What do we do when it rains?" "Where do we put the toys?"
- ☐ **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS** Play a game. Give a simple direction, such as "Simon says, 'Touch your nose.'" Challenge your child to follow the direction only if you say, "Simon says." Give directions with and without "Simon says."

STANDARD: Recognizes Alphabet Letters

- ☐ **LEARN NAME LETTERS** Write your child's name in large letters. Point to each letter and say: "These are the letters in your name!"
- ☐ **SING THE ALPHABET** Sing the alphabet song with your child. Be sure to clearly pronounce each letter name.

STANDARD: Attempts Writing

- ☐ **WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL** Find a few minutes every day for your child to draw and “write” in the included journal. Make it a special activity your child will enjoy. Celebrate your child’s work, even if you don’t understand what it is. Always ask them to tell you about the marks on the page.
- ☐ **SHARE WRITING WITH OTHERS** Invite your child to make pictures, cards, and notes to give to family members and friends. This is the best way to show your child that writing is useful and important.

STANDARD: Understands Stories

- ☐ **DISCUSS THE PLOT** While reading, pause to get your child’s thoughts about the story. Ask: “What just happened? What do you think is going to happen next?”
- ☐ **TALK AFTER READING** Always respond to books with your child. Talk about what surprised you, favorite characters and events, and how the book made you feel.

STANDARD: Engages With Books

- ☐ **HANDLE BOOKS** Point out the cover and title of books. Show your child how to hold a book and turn pages. Talk about the words, pictures, and other parts of a book. Then show your child how to put it away with care.
- ☐ **PLAY LIBRARY** Have your child play Pretend Library with you, choosing books, checking out titles to stuffed toys, or making little books from folded paper. “What kinds of books should we add to our library? Now let’s see what our local library has!”

STANDARD: Identifies That Print Has Meaning

- ☐ **READ SIGNS** When you are out together, ask your child to identify familiar signs in buildings, stores, and restaurants: “What does the sign say?”
- ☐ **IDENTIFY WORDS** Write the names of objects in your child’s room on sticky notes. Choose simple words, such as *bed*, *toy*, *shoe*, *rug*, and *coat*. Play a game together by matching the notes to the objects.