

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

STANDARD: Writes and Illustrates

- ☐ **JOURNAL** Remind your child to use the included writing journal as a special quiet-time activity to enjoy. Your child can follow the fun prompts or make up new ones. Ask your child about the pictures, marks, letters, and words he or she made.

STANDARD: Asks and Answers Questions About Stories

- ☐ **TALK AFTER READING** Discuss the characters, the setting, and the story events. Then ask your child questions: "Where is the story happening? Is this a place you'd like to visit? Why?"

STANDARD: Understands Spoken Language

- ☐ **ASK AND ANSWER QUESTIONS** Ask your child *who, what, when, where, and why* questions: "Who did you play with at school today?" "What happened after lunch?" "Where were you when you lost your umbrella?" When your child asks you questions, say, "I can see from your question that you are really thinking." Then answer the question.
- ☐ **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS** Give your child simple directions to follow in order; for example, "Put on your pajamas, brush your teeth, and choose a story to listen to." Increase the number of steps to follow as your child gets better at following directions.

STANDARD: Recognizes Uppercase and Lowercase Letters

- ☐ **MATCH LETTERS** Write your child's name, or other words, in uppercase letters. Then write each word with lowercase letters. Ask your child to identify each letter. "Let's name and match the letters."

STANDARD: Retells Stories

- ☐ **RETELL STORIES** After reading a story once or twice, invite your child to look at the pictures and use the pictures to retell the story in her or his own words.

STANDARD: Recognizes Sounds

- ☐ **NAME THE SOUND** Name a person in the family or a classmate and ask your child to say the sound that name begins with. Children may also listen for end sounds or middle-vowel sounds.
- ☐ **WORD OF THE DAY** Choose a word of the day. Have your child name the sound it begins with and other words that begin with the same sound. If the word is *delicious*, your child will say that it begins with the /d/ sound, just like *doctor*, *dance*, and *door*.

STANDARD: Uses Illustration or Writing to Tell a Story

- ☐ **WRITE ABOUT A PRETEND TRIP** Invite your child to go on a pretend trip. You might visit a dinosaur museum, travel to Mars, or collect seashells on a beach. Ask your child to draw and write about your adventure.
- ☐ **INVENT A STORY CHARACTER** Every once in a while, invite your child to invent a character for a story. Have your child draw the character and tell what makes the character special. Superheroes are invited, too!

STANDARD: Writes for Different Purposes

- ☐ **SHARE WRITING** Invite your child to make pictures, cards, and notes to give to family and friends. Help children write thank-you notes for gifts. This is the best way to show your child that writing is useful, important, and a good way to share thoughts and feelings.
- ☐ **MAKE LISTS** Invite your child to make lists with you. You might list what to buy at the grocery store, what chores to do at home, what animals to research and learn about on the internet, or what things you want to do on the weekend.

STANDARD: Names Letters and Sounds

- ☐ **LETTERS IN WORDS** After you finish reading a story, choose a page in the book and have your child name the letter that begins each word. Another time, have your child name a letter and the sound it makes.

STANDARD: Recognizes or Reads Basic Words

- ☐ **READ SIGNS** When you are out together, ask your child to identify signs in buildings, stores, and restaurants. "What does that sign say?"
- ☐ **IDENTIFY WORDS** Help your child identify words she or he knows in menus, greeting cards, computer games, emails, text messages, magazines, and other printed materials.

STANDARD: Expresses Ideas With Detail

- ❑ **DESCRIBE WITH ADJECTIVES** At home or at the grocery store, talk about what you see. "Touch the lemon and the pineapple. Which one feels bumpy? Which one feels smooth? Which one is round and shiny? Which one has prickly leaves?"

STANDARD: Retells and Predicts

- ❑ **SHARE IDEAS AS YOU READ** Talk with your child while reading. "What just happened?" "What do you think is going to happen next?" Then read on to see whether your child made a correct prediction.

STANDARD: Names and Defines Authors and Illustrators

- ❑ **NOTE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS** Point out titles of books and the names of the author and the illustrator. Remind your child that the author writes the words and the illustrator creates the pictures. Discuss how to care for books.

STANDARD: Speaks and Listens

- ❑ **SPARK A CONVERSATION** Ask your child questions to begin conversations. "What book did you read in school today? What was your favorite part?"; "Did you get to use the computer today? What did you do?"; "What do you think the class will do tomorrow?"

STANDARD: Counts Syllables

- ❑ **COUNT AND CLAP SYLLABLES** Invite your child to point to an object. Ask your child to name the object and then clap the syllables together. "Computer. Let's clap *com-put-er*."