

Literacy Development *Age by Age*

Here's a look at how children go from imitating sounds to recognizing simple words to becoming readers and writers.

Children may

0
to
2



- * experiment with language by making sounds that imitate the tones and rhythms of adult talk.
- * delight in listening to familiar jingles and rhymes.
- * play along in games such as peekaboo and patty cake.
- * show interest in books that feature familiar objects.
- * begin to name these objects out loud.
- * participate in making the sounds of animals they see in books.

2
to
3



- * enjoy listening to stories, rhymes, and songs; doing finger plays; looking at books.
- * understand that their written name signifies something special that pertains specifically to them.
- * scribble enthusiastically.

3
to
4



- * delight in conversing and being listened and responded to.
- * recognize examples of print in their environment.
- * know that writing is a form of communication.
- * enjoy dictating comments about artwork and letters.
- * know that people read for a purpose.

4
to
5



- * realize that reading moves left to right, top to bottom.
- * learn that print, rather than pictures, carries the meaning of the story.
- * pretend to read, using visual cues to remember the words to their favorite stories.
- * understand that writing is used to convey messages and has a specific form and symbol system.
- * recognize and name some letters.
- * write some letters.
- * enjoy playing games involving written words and numbers.

5
to
6



- * recognize and identify some of the sounds that letters represent.
- * sound out some words.
- * enjoy writing and giving written messages to others.
- * attempt to do their own writing, using invented and standard spelling.
- * begin to write the words they hear.
- * learn to leave spaces between words.
- * enjoy reading favorite books, simple predictable books, and books they have written.
- * love to browse through beautiful books.