

Kindergarten Literacy

Kindergarten is an exciting year in the world of literacy as you watch your child's literacy skills develop. There are many activities that you can do at home to help your child's literacy skills flourish. Below are some ideas:

1. **READ to your child every day.** This is so important for the development of vocabulary, language and literacy skills. This can be a special time for you and your child to foster the love of literature.
2. **Help your child develop phonemic awareness.** Young children do not hear the isolated phonemes/sounds in words. You can help them by playing games that reinforce this skill. For example, say a word like "top" and break it into phonemes, /t/, /o/, /p/. Another activity is switching phonemes. For example, say the word "mat" and then change it to "hat," "bat," etc.
3. **Practice letter names and their sounds.** There are loads of alphabet games available. Guide your child to match letter names with their corresponding sounds using alphabet cards, blocks, cut-outs, etc.
4. **Have lots of conversations with your child.** Providing exposure to language helps build literacy skills.
5. **Ask your child to tell you a story.** Write the story down and read the story back to your child using your finger to track and point to words as you read. This gets children used to reading left to right. Repeated readings will help them to recognize words.
6. **Practice vowels versus consonants.** Create a sorting activity, helping your child sort letter cards or letter cut-outs into a vowel group and a consonant group. Using a different color for vowels and consonants is helpful. Then ask or help your child name the vowels and consonants.

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7. **Encourage your child to read to you.** Once your child begins reading books, encourage him/her to read to you. Choose books that are at a comfortable reading level for your child and encourage repeated readings to help build fluency skills.
8. **Provide opportunities to practice writing.** Write a letter, a postcard, a list or a story with your child.
9. **Ask questions when reading.** Whether you are reading to your child or he/she is reading to you, comprehension skills develop as you ask questions about the story. Ask who, what, where, when, and why questions. Ask about the important events in the story.

AND REMEMBER TO....

HAVE FUN! Most importantly, bring the spirit of fun to whatever activity you are doing, so that reading becomes a pleasure and not a chore.

You will find a description of the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) program in your orientation packet. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or would like further ideas to support literacy development at home. You can email us at mccarthyj@mersd.org and lunneyf@mersd.org.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

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