

Tip Sheet: Early Literacy



Tips to Boost Early Literacy

- **Start early.** Reading to babies is important for healthy brain development and lays the foundation for language and writing skills.
- **Make reading a part of your daily routine.** Establishing a routine helps ensure that reading is part of your daily schedule, such as at naptime and bedtime. It also creates time during the day that both of you can look forward to.
- **Try board and cloth books for babies.** By age 1, babies can grab books. Board and cloth books are great options for babies who like to touch things and put everything in their mouths.
- **Take turns with your toddler.** By age 2, toddlers can hold a book and point at the pictures. Let your toddler turn the pages of a board book and respond to them when they point or react to the story.
- **Ask your child questions.** As you read to your child, make the experience interactive by asking them questions, such as “What do you think will happen next?” “What was your favorite part of the story? Why?”
- **Reread your child’s favorite books.** By age 3, children can complete sentences in a familiar story. Read them their favorite books over and over to help them learn through repetition.
- **Point out similar words.** By age 4, children begin to recognize letters. You can point out words in a book that begin with the same letter to your preschooler to help them become familiar with the letter and begin to associate certain words with that letter.

Things to Consider

- What does the conversation look like when you talk with a family about introducing literacy early and often?
- How does your curriculum support early literacy development?
- What are some unique literacy resources in your community that you share with your families?

Resources for Early Literacy



- **Libros for Kids:** A local non-profit affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Its mission is to promote early childhood literacy and language proficiency of preschool children by delivering books to their home monthly. Katherine Chilton katherinechilton@me.com www.librosforkids.org
- **Read to Me:** A local nonprofit that aims to encourage early childhood literacy by collecting new and gently used children’s books. They clean, repair, sort, and distribute books where they are needed: schools, buses, clinics, community centers, public transportation, little free libraries, daycare centers, and laundromats. Dave Orner bookdrive66@gmail.com readtomeabqnetwork.org
- **The Waterford Project:** Waterford.org is a national education nonprofit dedicated to providing high-quality educational resources to children, families, communities, and partners. Home-based solution Waterford Upstart Olga Gallardo 801-651-7906 olgagalardo@waterford.org. School-based solution Waterford Reading Academy Jodi Sohrt 281-804-2101 jodisohrt@waterford.org
- **The Children’s Reading Alliance:** First Teacher/Primer Maestro, was created specifically for Dona Ana County families who are bi-lingual or monolingual in Spanish. The decided focus of the 6-week program is to engage parents in the education of their children. Jennifer Alvarado 575-522-3713

Additional Resources:

- **New Mexico State Library Rural Bookmobiles:** The State Library operates three bookmobiles in the state that target library and information services to persons in underserved and rural communities. Each bookmobile carries up to 4,000 volumes and makes a monthly route of regularly scheduled stops in rural communities in its region. www.nmstatelibrary.org/direct-and-rural-services/rural-bookmobiles
- **Start Early-Champions for Early Learning:** An online resource that provides information for early learning and care from a child’s first moments, so every child has the opportunity to thrive in school and life. www.startearly.org