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Starting Out Right



*A Guide to Promoting
Children's Reading Success*

By the National Research Council



*Specific recommendations from
America's leading researchers
on how to help children
become successful readers.*

A must for parents, teachers, and child care providers

A sampler of activities from

Starting Out Right



**A Guide to
Promoting Children's
Reading Success**

Preschool Activities

☆ Encourage your children to label objects, helping them with vocabulary and pronunciation.



☆ Songs, rhyming games, language play, and nursery rhymes are excellent ways to spark children's awareness of language and sounds.

☆ Tell children some of your own stories, about when you were a child, or about your own parents or grandparents. With encouragement, children will then tell their own story.

☆ Help children to find the initial letter of their own names and watch as they delight in identifying "their letter"

First Grade Activities

☆ Give children a set of 26 letter cards and call out words for them to spell out with the cards. Try to make different words using the same letters.



☆ Play the Name Game, clapping out the syllables to various children's names, counting the number of claps and pointing out that some names get just one clap, and that other names have many.



☆ Surround reading sessions with discussion and activities to help children develop their comprehension and vocabulary skills

in the world around them.

☆ Children should experience shared reading with storybooks every day.



☆ Write down your child's story. Dictation activities help kindergartners understand that anything spoken can be written.

☆ Play the game SNAP in which children identify shared sounds in a pair of words.

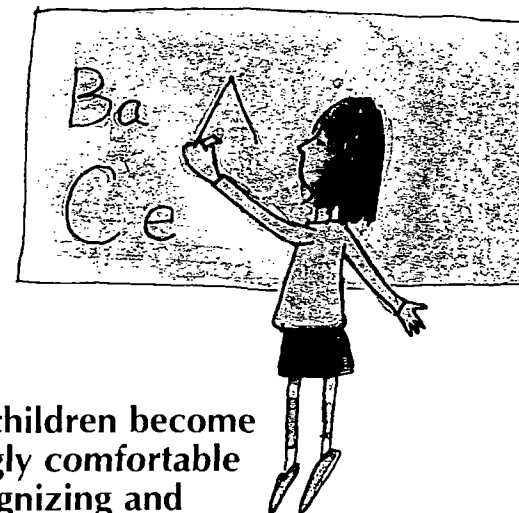
☆ Provide access to a wide variety of reading materials.

Kindergarten Activities

☆ Have children make their own letter dictionaries with their own notebook, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, old magazines, safety scissors, and paste or tape.



☆ Give your children journals to write in. These journals will give them the chance to tell you about anything they want to communicate.



☆ Help children become increasingly comfortable with recognizing and naming all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet. One fun way to do this is to play an adaptation of the old favorite game, I Spy.

This poster is a companion to *Starting Out Right: A Guide to Promoting Children's Reading Success*, M. Susan Burns, Peg Griffin, and Catherine E. Snow, editors (Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children), National Research Council (National Academy Press, 1999, 192 pages, softcover).

Copies of *Starting Out Right* are available at your favorite bookstore or by calling National Academy Press at 1-800-624-6242 or 202-334-3313. You can read the book on line for free at the National Academy Press website, <http://www.nap.edu>.

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