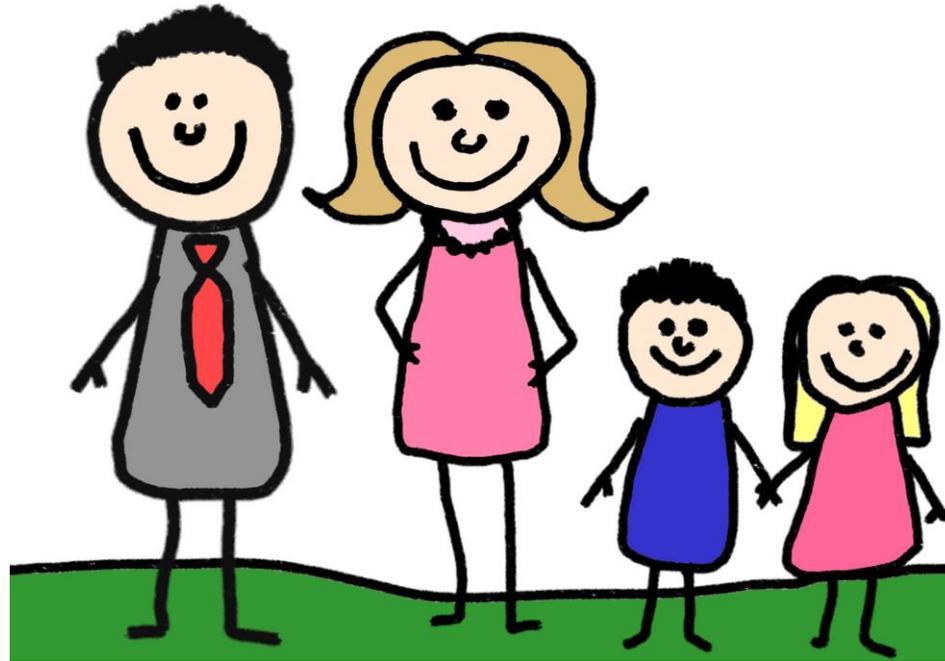


Parent Toolkit



Language and Literacy Strategies
Preschool/Kindergarten
Parent Toolkit

The development of literacy is much more than simply learning to read. It also includes listening and understanding, speaking and communication, connecting sounds to language, using writing and storytelling, and representing ideas through art and pretend play, singing and rhyming. There is so much you as a parent can do, without it involving too much time.

The goal of this toolkit is to provide you with simple activity ideas, book lists, poems and nursery rhymes, warning signs of potential red flags, and provide suggestions to help you meet the educational needs of your child.

Listening and understanding	Speaking	Literacy And Reading	Writing
Talk to your child	Ask your child lots of questions	Read 3 or more books to your child daily	Provide paper, pencils, crayons daily
Sing songs together	No baby talk	Rhyming, rhyming, rhyming!!	Utilize alphabet blocks, magnetic letters
Sing ABC's together	Playing rhyming games	Help child learn to hold a book, turn pages	Write and mail letters/cards
Sing Christmas carols	Nursery rhymes	When reading to child, move finger along words	Sidewalk chalk outdoor drawing and writing
say/repeat nursery rhymes	Ask your child lots of open-ended questions	Reading is from left to right, top to bottom	Have child write the letters they hear in words
Play "I spy" while driving	Encourage pretend play	Read fiction and nonfiction to young child	Activities to strengthen fingers (playdough, scissors, lacing)
Play board games	Talk about stories: beginning, middle, end	Ask child about his/her favorite part of story	Illustrating stories
Work puzzles together	Make up stories together	Go to the Library and get child his/her own library card	Label things in the house with printed words
No baby talk	Connecting beginning sounds to letters	Make up stories together	Practice good pencil grasp

Children love nursery rhymes and learning to rhyme is a critical part of language and literacy development. Below are some that you can teach your child and say with him or her.

Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after



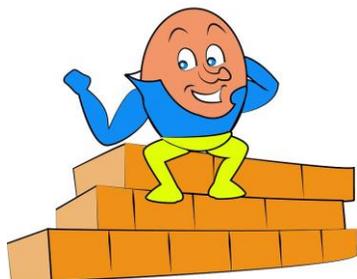
Hickory, Dickory, Dock

Hickory, Dickory, Dock
The mouse ran up the clock
The clock struck one
The mouse ran down
Hickory, Dickory, dock



Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
All the king's horses and
All the king's men, couldn't
Put Humpty Dumpty together again.



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are



Baa, Baa Black Sheep

Baa, baa black sheep
Have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir
Three bags full.
One for the master,
One for the dame,
And one for the little boy
Who lives down the lane.
Baa, baa black sheep
Have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir
Three bags full.

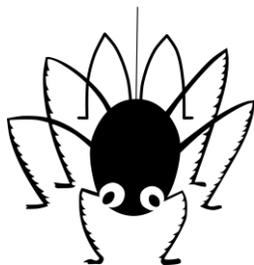


Roses are Red

Roses are Red
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet
And so are you

Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider
Climbed up the water spout
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out
Out came the sun
And dried up all the rain
And the itsy bitsy spider
Climbed up the spout again.



Hey Diddle, Diddle

Hey diddle, diddle
The cat and the fiddle
The cow jumped over the moon
The little dog laughed to see such a
sport
And the dish ran away with the spoon.



I'm A Little Teapot

I'm a little teapot
Short and stout
Here is my handle
Here is my spout
When I get all steamed up
Here my shout
Tip me over
And pour me out.



Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on her tuffet
Eating her curds and whey
Along came a spider
And sat down beside her
And frightened Miss Muffet away



Book Suggestions

The library has a wonderful selection of books for young children. Allowing your child to have his/her own library card is a wonderful way to encourage interest in books and develop strong reading skills.

Here is a brief list of just a few quality children's books:

Picture books	Rhyming books	Easy Readers
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr and John Archambault	Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson	Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel
Clifford the Big Red Dog by Norman Bridwell	Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker	Thank You, Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown	Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss	Captain Underpants, series by Dav Pilkey
Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney	Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein	Nate the Great by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Pete the Cat by Eric Litwin	The Gingerbread man by Jim Aylesworth	I Like Bugs by Margaret Wise Brown
Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Eric Carle	We Go Together by Todd Dunn	The Best Nest by P.D. Eastman
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff	Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees	The Berenstain Bears books by Stan and Jan Berenstain
I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen	Zin Zin Zin a Violin by Lloyd Moss	Dear Dragon series by Margaret Hillert
Curious George by H.A. Rey	One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss	BOB book sets by Bobby Lynn Maslen
Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehlert	Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle	The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

Potential Signs and Characteristics of a Problem Preschool/kindergarten

- Delayed speech
- Difficulty pronouncing words
- Difficulty acquiring new vocabulary or using age appropriate grammar
- Mixing up sounds and syllables
- Late establishment of a dominant hand
- Difficulty learning to tie shoes
- Trouble memorizing
- Confusion with word play and songs
- Difficulty understanding/remembering right and left
- Difficulty with understanding first, second, next, last, etc.
- Difficulty naming common objects
- Struggles to learn, remember, name colors
- Struggles to learn, remember, name letters
- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty following multi-step directions
- Poor fine motor skills

- Uninterested in reading/books
- Difficulty noticing sound repetition or alliteration
- Difficulty putting stories in order by retelling or pictures
- Difficulty learning alphabet, numbers, days of week
- Lacks confidence about school
- Trouble matching letters to sound (kindergarten)
- Difficulty blending letter sounds (kindergarten)
- Confusing letters that look similar (kindergarten)
- Trouble remembering sight words (kindergarten)
- Difficulty learning to read (kindergarten)
- Difficulty naming letters rapidly (kindergarten)
- Omitting and misreading common short words (kindergarten)
- Your child's teacher says, "If only she would try harder," or, "He's lazy."

Advocating for Your Child

You are your child's first and most important teacher! No one knows your child better than you do. Being an advocate means giving a voice to your child's needs and empowering him/her to accomplish goals. It means helping your child to obtain the resources to meet those needs. Dyslexia in no way limits what your child can accomplish or what they may become as an adult. They can become doctors, lawyers, scientists, artists, entertainers, athletes and anything else they may dream.

If your child's teacher mentions noticing a potential red flag, listen to her. This is not a reflection of your child's intelligence or their worth. But, the earlier the concerns are addressed, the less likely it is that your child could fall behind and become frustrated with school. Ask what you can do at home to support your child's learning.

If you suspect that your child may have reading difficulties, speak up! Be specific about weaknesses you notice at home and keep track. Do not wait for annual parent-teacher conferences to say something. Reach out and express what your concerns are and ask your child's teacher to begin noticing. Your elementary principal is another great resource for help and support. Recognize

your role as the most important member of your child's educational team. Stand up. Be heard. Be an advocate. Never give up on your child!

Helpful Websites

www.understood.org

www.readingrockets.org

www.bookshare.org

www.getreadytoread.org

www.scholastic.com

www.pbs.org