

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

If you read with your child just 30 minutes a day, he/she will be exposed to more than 900 hours of literacy learning before kindergarten.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:
**Rereading familiar stories
enhances your child's
understanding. Read it
again!**

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Babies need more than “baby talk.” Use real words and names to describe the world around you.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Read with enthusiasm!

Create different voices for each character. Don't be afraid to be silly.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:
Stop reading every now and then to discuss what's happening. Ask your child to make predictions about the story.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Talk about the pictures!

**Introduce your child to
the names of unfamiliar
things.**

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Scribbling is an early form of writing. Ask your child to “read” what he or she has written.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Clay and playdough can help your child develop the muscles he/she needs to write. Make those fingers strong!

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Bedtime is great for reading together. But it's not the only time. The important thing is to read!

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Pay attention to your child's interests. Visit the library and find books that match!

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Your baby is learning words even before he/she can say them. Talk to your baby. Explain the things you are doing together.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Practice retelling the stories you read together. See what your child can recall.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Want to create a reader?

**Let your child see YOU
reading for pleasure. Share
your enjoyment!**

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Play a rhyming game.

**Name a word and see if your
child can name others
that rhyme with it.**

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Have a “written conversation.” Write your child a message and help him or her to respond in print.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Children's spelling develops over time. Help your preschooler label his/her drawings, beginning with initial sounds.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Want to find books your child will love? Talk to a children's librarian. They're there to help!

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Play word games as you drive. Pick a letter and see how many words you can name that begin with its sound.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

**Your child's vocabulary
at school entry predicts
his/her success as a reader.
Expose your preschooler to
new words daily.**

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:
**Let your child choose the
books you read together.**

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Look for books with simple, repetitive patterns. As you read encourage your child finish your sentences.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

**Share sturdy, “board books”
with your infant/toddler.
Don’t be surprised if they
chew on them. This is how
babies explore.**

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Read to your baby, even before it seems he/she will understand. Your voice is helping your baby's brain develop.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

No book? No problem!

Make up a story together.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Add labels to household items to help your child make connections between spoken and written language.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Take a “picture walk” before you read. Ask your child to make predictions about what will happen in the story.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

As you read, track the text with your finger. This will help your child develop important insights as to how print “works.”

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

As you drive, point out and read signs together with your child.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Encourage your newborn's speech. As he/she "coos and gurgles," talk back, repeating his/her sounds.

First Steps Early Literacy Tip:

Find real reasons to write!

Make grocery lists and signs.

Write letters and notes.