

Engaging Children: Interactive Literacy Activities [PreK-K]

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National Center on
Improving Literacy

improvingliteracy.org



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Family Literacy and The National Center on Improving Literacy

- National Family Literacy Day – November 1st
- Purpose of Family Literacy
- Purpose of National Center on Improving Literacy



What is Family Literacy?

- A little history....
- Four component model
 - ✓ Adult Literacy
 - ✓ Early Childhood Education
 - ✓ Interactive Literacy or Parent and Child Together Time (PACT)
 - ✓ Parent Education
- Three components

Interactive Literacy Activities (or ILA)

- Goal

To improve language and literacy skills (speaking, reading, and writing) of children and parents and to guide parents in understanding the value of positive interactions with their children through play and activities.

- What is the research?

Strong correlation between children's academic achievement and the amount of time children and parents spend together doing shared activities.

- Why is it important to family literacy?

“Value-added” component of family literacy

NCIL Brief: Supporting Your Child's Literacy Development at Home

- Focus
 - On how parents can help to develop a child's reading ability, including language skills, fluency, and comprehension skills
- Overview on three age groups
 - Young children
 - Older Children
 - Adolescents
- URL: <http://improvingliteracy.org/brief/supporting-your-child%E2%80%99s-literacy-development-home>

Interactive Literacy Activities

At what age?

- At Birth!!
- Preschool
- Kindergarten and on...

Children's Language and Literacy Development

Talk about four areas today:

- Phonological awareness
- Alphabetic Knowledge
- Fluency and Comprehension
- Vocabulary Development

Phonological Awareness

- Definition

The ability to identify and play with sound parts in spoken language, such as beginning and end sounds in words, words in sentences, and syllables in words.

- Importance to literacy development

It provides the foundation for learning to read. First step is **phonics**, the connection between sounds and print letters.

Alphabet Knowledge

- Definition

The ability to name letters and know the letter sounds of the alphabet.

- Importance to literacy development

Children need to understand the systematic and predictable relationship between written letters and sounds to read.

Children decode words by taking each phoneme and blending them.

Fluency and Comprehension

- Definition

Fluency – The ability to read words, phrases, sentences, and stories correctly, with speed, and expression.

Comprehension –The ability to understand what you read or what is read to you.

- Importance to literacy development

Fluent readers do not have to concentrate to decode words, rather they can focus on what the text means.

Vocabulary Development

- Definition

Knowing what words mean and how to say and use them correctly.

- Importance to literacy development

Having a rich vocabulary helps children comprehend in that they have more background knowledge and understanding of the text.

Reading Challenges: Dyslexia

- Definition

Described as a brain-based disability that specifically impairs a person's ability to read (National Institutes of Health), that is neurobiological in origin (International Dyslexia Association, 2002).

- Importance to literacy development

Children with dyslexia have difficulty decoding and processing sounds, so reading is not automatic and is labored and slow.

Dyslexia Facts

- Individuals often have average and above average intelligence
- Dyslexia exists along a continuum
- It tends to be inherited
- Common in languages other than English
- Boys and girls have equal chance of being born with dyslexia
- Often gifted in other areas not language related – arts, music, math, sports.

Dyslexia Myths

- Kids are lazy!
 - Absolutely not true
- Visual perceptual deficit
 - Nope, it is neurologically based
 - Occurs at the language processing level (phonemes), not at the visual processing level
- Children with dyslexia will never learn to read
 - Not true - systematic, purposeful instruction is needed

More information: NCIL Brief – *Defining Dyslexia*

Phonological Awareness: Interactive Literacy Activities

- Be intentional and explicit when interacting about phonological awareness
- Make sure it is fun!
- Engage in word play – rhyming, singing songs, reading poems
- Play games that isolate and exaggerate sounds – i.e., tongue twisters (alliteration)
 - Read books together such as *Sheep in a Shop* by Nancy Shaw

Phonological Awareness: Interactive Literacy Activities Continued

- Read books that focus on word sounds
 - ✓ *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss
 - ✓ *Sheep in a Jeep* by Nancy Shaw
 - ✓ *Is Your Mama a Llama?* By Anna Dewdney
- Ask questions about sounds while reading books
 - ✓ What sound do most of the words end with?
 - ✓ What silly rhymes can we make with the words?
 - ✓ Suggested books
 - *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson
 - *Down by the Cool of the Pool* by Tony Mitton

Phonological Awareness: Interactive Literacy Activities Continued

- Engage in word play doing everyday activities
 - ✓ At the grocery store
 - ✓ Going for walks
 - ✓ At a meal time
- Play syllable games or read books with a strong rhythm
 - ✓ *Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood
 - ✓ *We're Going On A Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen
- Find computer software that focuses on developing phonological or phonemic awareness skills.

Alphabet Knowledge: Interactive Literacy Activities

- Make it fun!
- Play with word and letter sounds
- Make letters – paint, play dough, whipped cream
- Make an alphabet book together
- Provide alphabet puzzles and magnetic letters
- Play *Hide the Letter*
- Play *I Spy* focusing on letters

Alphabet Knowledge: Interactive Literacy Activities Continued

- Read alphabet books together
 - ✓ *Alphabet City* by Stephen Johnson
 - ✓ *The Butterfly Alphabet Book* by Kjell Sandved
 - ✓ *Q is for Duck: An Alphabet Guessing Game* by Marcia McClintock Folsom and Mary Elting
- Use alphabet apps or online resources

Fluency and Comprehension: Interactive Literacy Activities

- Sit with your child and read!
- Re-read favorite books
- Read poems
- Ask questions about the text/story
 - ✓ Who is telling the story?
 - ✓ Where does the story take place?
 - ✓ Tell me what happened in the story?
- Make connections to their own life experiences
- Make predictions before and while you read the book

Vocabulary Development: Interactive Literacy Activities

- Have fun!
- Read aloud to increase vocabulary
- Talk about different words in the story before reading
- Label objects in the house
- Engage in conversations with descriptive words, names of objects, etc.
- Model questions and curiosity about words

Other Resources for Interactive Literacy Activities

- *Be Excited About Reading* (BEAR) Activities
<https://ed.psu.edu/goodling-institute/publications/bear-family-learning-activities>
- Pennsylvania Center for the Book
<https://pabook.libraries.psu.edu/>
- Smithsonian Learning Lab
<https://learninglab.si.edu/>
- Reading Rockets
www.readingrockets.org
- PBS Parents
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/>

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For more information

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