What Is Early Literacy?

- What children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.

from "Every Child Ready to Read © your library, Parent Guide to Early Literacy for Pre-Readers." Public Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Why is Early Literacy Important?

• From birth – age 5, the brain develops the neurological pathways needed for future learning.

• These pathways are developed between cells through activities that stimulate a young child’s senses.

• Brains that are not stimulated do not develop these pathways between cells.

• By age 5, the brain begins to prune away the cells with underdeveloped neurological pathways.

• “Use it or lose it,” says the brain.
Why is Early Literacy Important?

• Children whose brains have been stimulated to develop the neurological pathways needed for early literacy understandings are ready to learn to read.

• “Research consistently demonstrates that the more children know about language and literacy before they begin formal schooling, the better equipped they are to succeed in reading.”

Early Literacy AND Soccer

Being ready to learn to read is like being ready to learn to play soccer.
What Skills Do You Need to Be Ready to Play Soccer?

Before you are ready to learn to play soccer you need to know:

- How to Run
- How to Kick
- Rules of the Game
- Teamwork
What Skills Do Children Need to Be Ready to Read?

- Vocabulary
- Narrative Skills
- Print Motivation
- Print Awareness
- Letter Knowledge
- Phonological Awareness

from "Every Child Ready to Read @ your library, Parent Guide to Early Literacy for Pre-Readers." Public Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development

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Vocabulary

Knowing the names of things

from "Every Child Ready to Read @ your library, Parent Guide to Early Literacy for Pre-Readers." Public Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Narrative Skills

Being able to describe things and events and tell stories.

from "Every Child Ready to Read @ your library. Parent Guide to Early Literacy for Pre-Readers." Public Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Print Motivation

Being interested in and enjoying books

from "Every Child Ready to Read @ your library, Parent Guide to Early Literacy for Pre-Readers." Public Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Print Awareness

Noticing print in the environment, knowing how to handle a book and knowing how to follow the words on a page

from "Every Child Ready to Read © your library, Parent Guide to Early Literacy for Pre-Readers." Public Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Letter Knowledge

Knowing that letters have different shapes, knowing their names and sounds and recognizing letters everywhere.

from "Every Child Ready to Read @ your library, Parent Guide to Early Literacy for Pre-Readers.
Public Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Phonological Awareness

Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.

from "Every Child Ready to Read @ your library, Parent Guide to Early Literacy for Pre-Readers."
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How Can Early Literacy Skills Be Fostered?

- Reading aloud using specific techniques
- Teaching children to spell their names
- Group singing
- Rhyming games
- Conversations
- Re-telling of stories
- Various other literacy activities
The End