

READING READINESS

Story time can be one of the most pleasurable times you spend with your children, but maybe you do not realize how very important it is for you to read out loud to them. Children develop reading skills at different rates, but the love and enjoyment of sounds, words, and communication starts in infancy. Following are some activities you can do with children to encourage their reading readiness.

1. Read to children

- Take books along
- Be a good role model-READ
- Story hour
- Have others read
- Use puppets
- Use your library
- Read with expression
- Read magazines

2. Talk with and listen to children - Research has shown that children who have a rich oral background are likely to move into reading with ease.

- Listen patiently
- Ask specific questions
- Develop sequencing skills

activity sequencing milk lids

need milk lids of various colors

procedure Systematically line up the milk lids and have the children continue the pattern.

age any

activity day pictures

need 6 pieces of drawing paper and crayons

procedure Have children draw pictures of their daily activities such as eating, brushing their teeth, playing, going to bed, etc., and line them up in proper daily sequence.

age any

activity sequencing letters (names, alphabet, words)

need plastic magnetic letters or milk lids with a letter printed on them with black marker

procedure On the refrigerator or table top, display names, letters, or words and have the children sequence the letters correctly.

age any

3. Build vocabulary - Vocabulary is built when you help children understand new words and attach names to objects or ideas.

- Use new words

activity labeling

need 3x5 cards, tape, marker

procedure Label objects in your home by room or by childrens' interests and requests.

age any

activity book making

need clearance sale scrapbooks and/or photo albums

procedure Following each child's initiative or interests, you can make books about anything. You can use magazine and catalog pictures, child's art, photos, or drawings. You can make books about colors, shapes, animals, numbers, poems, characters, objects, original stories, rhymes, etc.

age any

4. **Seeing likenesses and differences** - Learning to read requires the ability to see likenesses and differences in detail. The more minute details one is able to see, the nearer one is to being able to read (see how alike the letters d, b, and p are).

- Use visual games or make them up!

activity matching games
need variety of objects to match-socks, money, shoes, buttons, popsicle sticks, magazine pictures, silverware, words, letters, jars and lids
procedure Have children match up objects that are the same. Have the children explain why they are the same and why they are different.
age any

5. **Hearing differences in sound** - The ability to hear differences in sound is critical to reading. Phonetic skills are more easily developed in children who have had numerous experiences in sound perception.

- Read poetry, rhymes, and finger plays

activity rhyme match
need 3x5 cards with pictures drawn on them or cut out of magazines
procedure Match the pictures of objects that rhyme (mouse, house; dog, log; moose, goose).
age 3-6

- Recognizing beginning sounds

activity sound pictures
need magazine photos
procedure Discuss the objects in the picture and name them, then go back and ask the child, "What starts with the 'b' sound?"
age 4-6

- Listening games and stories

activity noisy jar games
need jar or can, cotton balls, nails, erasers, dried beans
procedure Review items and have children cover their eyes while you drop one of the items into the jar. Have children tell you what was dropped.
age any

activity making your own recordings
need cassette recorder, clean tape and imagination
procedure Make sound tapes of animal sounds, each others' voices, house sounds, outside sounds, loud and soft sounds, high and low sounds. Have children tell what the sounds are and where they come from.
age any

Resources

People in Process - The Preschool Years by Maxine Hancock

Hand Rhymes by Marc Brown

Golden Book of Poetry by Jane Werner

Hand Puppets by Laura Ross

Magazines

Sesame Street (2-5); Ladybug (2-7); Turtle (2-5); Humpty Dumpty (3-6); Your Big Backyard (3-6); Ranger Rick (6-12); Children's Playmate (6-8) Clubhouse Jr. (3-5); Clubhouse (6-8); Highlights (preschool to preteen)

MATH READINESS

The following concepts are the foundation of math readiness. They include background activities that will benefit children as they move into computational math.

1. Classification - distinguishing between items that are alike and different

• Matching - one to one likeness

<u>activity</u>	Meet Your Match
need	group of items, such as wallpaper samples, paint strips, floor samples, milk lids
procedure	Match items in each group that are the same.
age	3-6

<u>activity</u>	Circle Games
need	paper plate, markers, clothespins, ruler
procedure	With the ruler, draw pie pieces on the plate. Color each piece a different color and a clothespin the same color. Match them.
age	3-6 (older children could match shapes, numbers, or letters)

• Sorting and Classifying - sorting objects according to likenesses and classifying them into groups

<u>activity</u>	Sorting Through It
need	groups of objects such as colored paper clips, poker chips, M&Ms, push pins, colored yarn balls
procedure	Sort the items by likeness and classify them by further likenesses.
age	3-6

2. Seriation - arranging items in a series

• Comparing - how things are different

<u>activity</u>	Small/Medium/Large
need	groups of different sized items such as hair rollers, buttons, and balls
procedure	Arrange items in groups of small, medium, and large.
age	3-6

• Ordering - arranging in some kind of order

<u>activity</u>	Light to Dark
need	paint samples, crayons, material scraps
procedure	Put items in order from light to dark and dark to light.
age	3-6

3. Patterns - making something in imitation of a model

• Reproducing - making the same pattern

<u>activity</u>	Pegboard Play
need	pegboard and various colored golf tees
procedure	Make a pattern on one row and have children copy it on the next.
age	3-6

<u>activity</u>	Block Busters
need	children's wooden blocks
procedure	Make a pattern with the blocks and have the child copy it.
age	3-6

- **Extending - continuing the same pattern**

activity Sticky Fun
need popsicle sticks
procedure Start a pattern with the sticks and have the children continue it.
age 3-6

- **Creating - making your own pattern**

activity Personal Patterns
need any of the already-mentioned items, fruit loops, milk lids
procedure Have children make their own patterns of 3 or 4 or more.
age 3-6

4. **Quantitative - having to do with "how much" of something**

- **Measurement**

activity Growth Chart
need yard stick, masking tape, wall or door trim
procedure Keep a running record of each child's growth (height).
age 2 and up

- **Weight**

activity Scale Play
need food scale, bathroom scale, baby scale, play scale
procedure Give children different items to weigh.
age 3 and up

- **Volume**

activity Three Bean Dish
need three types of large dried beans and large tub or tray
procedure Let children play in the beans.
age 3 and up

5. **Numbers**

- **Concept – a number is a symbol showing how many or a place in a sequence**

activity Number Search
need 3x5 cards with numbers and letters on them, marker
procedure Separate numbers from letters.
age 4-6

- **Counting**

activity Full Plates
need paper plates, clothespins, marker
procedure Number the plates 1-10 with large numbers. Attach that many pins to the plate.
age 4-6

- **Recognition**

activity Guess That Number
need 10 Styrofoam cups, marker, push pins
procedure Number cups and have the children sequence them. Push that many pins into the individual cup.

Resources

Educational Services, Inc., PO Box 219, Stevensonville, MI 49127 Math “fun books” from department stores

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