



Early Literacy Concepts in Storytimes

Love Books — supports print motivation and background knowledge

Children who are given opportunities to love books are excited to explore books and have an easier time learning to read. Books also expose children to a variety of topics, which will build comprehension skills.

In Storytime:

- Always make reading fun.
- Read books in different ways.
- Share different types of books.
- Read books on lots of topics.
- Read favorite books over again.

Sing & Rhyme — supports phonological awareness

When they sing and rhyme, children hear the smaller sounds in words, the repeating sounds in words, and gain an understanding of how language works. Research shows that children who lack these skills have difficulty learning to read.

In Storytime:

- Sing Songs.
- Rhyme.
- Play sound games.
- Play with alliteration.
- Play with tongue twisters.

Talk & Read — supports vocabulary and language development

Reading lots of books and talking with children helps them learn thousands of words and enriches their language development. The stronger these skills are when they begin kindergarten, the more likely they are to succeed.

In Storytime:

- Explore new topics and use nonfiction.
- Read books that demonstrate conversation.
- Point out unusual words in books and define – “enormous is another word for big.”

Tell Stories — supports narrative skills

When children play pretend and tell stories, they learn to organize their thoughts, to sequence the order of events, and apply learned language skills. It is the building block for reading comprehension.

In Storytime:

- Retell stories using, props, flannelboards, puppets or just verbally.
- Repeat favorite stories.
- Read books with repeating lines and encourage children to say the line with you.
- Read books that allow children to predict.
- Read wordless books and “read” books using only the pictures.

Play with Letters — supports print awareness, print conventions and letter knowledge

Before they can learn to read, children need to know and understand what print is, that print communicates, that letters have names and represent sounds, and that words are made up of letters.

In Storytime:

- Play meaningful letter games.
- Offer shared writing experiences.
- Point out parts of books – title, cover, author/illustrator.
- Engage in movement activities.
- Point out when fonts are used to convey expression – big words for yelling, etc

Racing to Read – Springfield Greene County Library District’s Early Literacy Program

thelibrary.org/racingtoread

