

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Examples of Early Literacy Moments

- Learn a new letter.
- Think of two or more words that rhyme.
- Talk to an adult about the cars and trucks that you see driving by.
- Sing a song about something that you are eating.
- Model reading a story to a younger sibling or friend.
- Move like your favorite animal.
- Learn a Mother Goose rhyme.
- Find objects around your house that start with the first letter of your first name.
- Clap out the syllables in your name.
- Draw a picture of yourself reading a book.
- Go for a walk with a grownup and find things that start with the letters “B”, “G” and “M”.
- Show your favorite book to one of your stuffed animals, turning each page and showing the pictures.
- Help measure ingredients for a recipe.
- Have your parent or caregiver sing their favorite song.
- Help gather utensils used for baking/cooking.
- Identify fruits or vegetables at the store by name or color.
- Practice animal sounds.
- Have a grownup narrate what they are doing to baby—for example—we are getting ready to go to the store, so we need to put your shoes and coat on, get Mommy’s purse and car keys, lock the door, etc...
- Identify body parts while getting baby dressed, undressed, or bathing.
- Point out colors and words on road signs.
- Discuss the parts of the book with an adult. Where is the front of the book? Where does the story start? Who is the author? As your adult reads, they can move their finger under the words, to show how the words move across the page.
- Have an adult read with expression, using different voices for different characters.
- Ask an adult to read cereal boxes or the packages of your favorite snacks.
- Point out the letters in your name that you see around town or in signs.
- Take a nature walk and talk about the colors you see.
- Play with play dough.
- Build with blocks.
- Scoop, dig and build in a sandbox.
- Make a list with an adult before going grocery shopping.
- Use shaving cream on a table to write your ABCs.
- Plant seeds and talk about the steps you take as you are planting.
- Draw imaginary pets and give them funny names.
- Watch an adult write a shopping or to do list. Ask the adult to say the words aloud as they write them.
- Play with an alphabet puzzle.
- Read a wordless picture book.
- Act out your favorite fairytale.
- Build your name with items from nature like sticks, stones, shells or feathers.
- Play “I Spy with my little eye...”
- Create a scrapbook. Use safety scissors to cut out pictures of people and places.
- Dictate (retell) a story to someone else.
- Get a library card!
- Tell an adult about what happened on a special day, such as a holiday, birthday, or on a family vacation.
- Ask an adult to write you a note. Ask them to read it to you with expression.
- Sing, “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.”
- Recite or sing nursery rhymes.
- Finger paint.
- Count how many steps from your door to your car.
- Look at pictures to learn new words.
- Discuss the difference between “real” and “make believe.”
- Sing the “Alphabet song.”
- Have an adult read you a poem.
- Learn a knock-knock joke.
- Create a tower using plastic cups.
- Jump and count to 10.
- Sing “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” with an adult, and choose the animals. Act the animals out together, or use puppets or stuffed animals.

