

# Three simple ways to build reading readiness



Few things predict success in school more than strong reading skills. While it may be a year or two before your preschooler learns how to read, here are three things you can do now to begin building skills:

- 1. Read aloud with your child** every day. This is an opportunity to spend enjoyable time together as well as to boost literacy. Daily reading time with parents promotes a love of reading.
- 2. Demonstrate how reading works.** Making your child aware of the structure of the printed page can improve reading ability. Say, “We read from the left side of the page to the right side of the page. Then we begin again on the left.” Point to the sides of the page as you do this.
- 3. Point out letters and words** everywhere you see them. This helps with reading, spelling and understanding



books later on. Point out familiar letters, such as the letters in your child’s name. Make the connection: “This word starts with the letter A. That’s the same letter that your name starts with. What other words start with the letter A?”

As your child learns the letters, move on to familiar words. When you read books, look together in the text for words your child sees often, such as *stop*, *milk* or *love*.