

# Seven Tips for Encouraging Early Literacy

Reading together, playing together, and just enjoying each other's company will all go a long way toward building pre-reading skills.

- 1. Form a close bond.** This one is easy! Your relationship with your child is very important to his or her ability to learn. Your child will benefit from talking and playing with you, and being close in all kinds of daily interactions.
- 2. Get in on the fun.** Being a participant at playtime can bring you closer and help you learn useful information about your child's habits and emotions.
- 3. Tell tales.** Build narrative skills by gathering family members at meal times and having them tell the story of their day.
- 4. Play rhyming games** to build listening skills and word awareness and just for fun.
- 5. Bring reading and writing into everyday life.** Encourage literacy in your child's daily routines by writing thank-you notes, and to-do lists, or making shopping lists together.
- 6. Be attentive** and engaged when you communicate with your child.
- 7. Read together.** Make story time a daily ritual that your child can count on and look forward to.

