

HELPING US GROW



TEMPE
DIABLOS



Early Literacy Booklet

A collection of tips, resources, activities, and games to help your child become a better reader.

Created by Read On Tempe

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How to Create a Literate Home



ARIZONA PBS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

PBS created a list of tools to have in your home that can help you in supporting your child's development of reading, writing, and talking.

Children's Books

Nursery rhymes, ABC books, informational books and storybooks.

Letters

Alphabet blocks, foam letters for the bathtub, ABC puzzles, magnetic refrigerator letters, ABC cookie cutters, letter stamps or letter stickers.

Writing materials

Thick markers, paint brushes, pencils or crayons.

Reading and writing materials for parents

Having a bookshelf full of books, reading the local newspaper, and having a notepad for writing grocery lists and phone messages show that reading and writing serve valuable everyday purposes.

Props for pretend play

Empty cereal boxes, old necklaces and an old pot and wooden spoon make ideal items for make-believe scenarios.

Videos

Concept videos such as ABCs and rhyming or videos of familiar books.

Online Resources



Use these resources to find more activities, suggestions, and helpful tips.

A collection of educational games from Arizona PBS:

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/activity-finder/ages-all/topics-literacy/shows-all/types-all>

How to talk to your baby from Read On Arizona:

<http://www.readonarizona.org/resources/smart-talk/resources-and-tools/>

A list of 21 online literacy resources:

<https://www.teachthought.com/literacy/21-literacy-resources-for-the-digital-teacher/>

A list of 15 literacy activities for preschoolers:

<https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/education/blog/literacy-activities-for-preschoolers/>

A collection of printable literacy activities:

<https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/literacy-activities-for-kids-page>

Information on boosting learning time:

www.vroom.org

Helpful Organizations

Below is contact information for organizations that can provide additional resources.

Tempe Public Library:

www.tempepubliclibrary.org

Thrive to Five:

www.thrivetofive.org

Mountain Park Health Center:

www.mountainparkhealth.org

First Things First:

www.firstthingsfirst.org

Tempe Elementary School District:

www.tempeschools.org

Kid Zone:

www.tempe.gov/kidzone

Read On Tempe:

www.tempe.gov/government/human-services/family-community-support/kindergarten-readiness/read-on-tempe

Read On Arizona:

www.readonarizona.org

Tempe PRE:

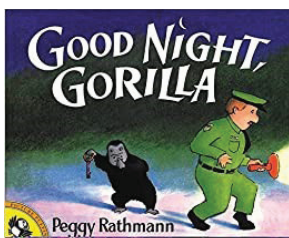
www.tempe.gov/TempePRE

Kyrene School District:

www.kyrene.org

Book List

Read On Arizona has created a list of suggested books for preschoolers. In addition to these wonderful titles, there are many other books that your child can enjoy at the Tempe Public Library! The youth library staff will be happy to help you find what you are looking for as well as offer you more suggestions!



Mary Had a Little Lamb

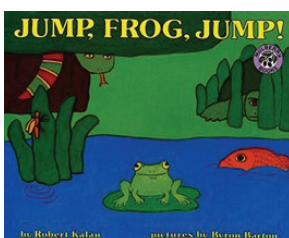
by Mary Ann Hoberman

Rhyming Dust Bunnies

by Jan Thomas

Good Night, Gorilla

by Peggy Rathmann

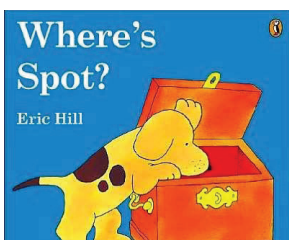


Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC

by June Soble

Jump, Frog, Jump

by Robert Kalan



The Lion & The Mouse

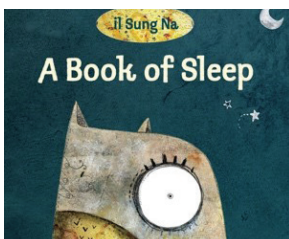
by Jerry Pinkney

The Monster at the End of this Book

by Jon Stone

I Want To Be An Astronaut

by Byron Barton



Where's Spot?

by Eric Hill

A Book of Sleep

by Il Sung Na

Literacy Activities: 0-2 Years

Tips for all ages:

- Read to your child every day or as often as possible. Get comfortable, choose board books for babies or touch and feel books for toddlers, and pause to let your child look at each page.
- Only read while your child is interested, not for a specific amount of time.
- Point to the words as well as the pictures.
- Read classic nursery rhymes and sing songs with your child.
- Incorporate movements with rhymes and songs whenever possible.

Activities for 0-12 months:

- Narrate what is happening in the world around you to your baby even if they cannot respond or show signs of understanding. Fill their world with rich language.
- Teach your baby simple sign language (e.g. yes, no, more, thank you, milk) so that they can communicate nonverbally before they begin talking, and to supplement words when they can talk. There are many resources online and books available on baby signs.

Activities for 1-2 years:

- Have your child “read” to you even if they can’t actually read. Allow them to hold the book and turn the pages as they make up the story. Ask questions as they “read” their story.
- Play “I Spy” games where you ask your child to look for something and then point it out. You can also ask your child to answer questions about the object, such as asking what color it is, or if there are any similar objects close by.
- Write the alphabet, short words, or your child’s name in large, neat letters. Then guide their finger over the letters while saying each letter, name, or sound.
- Visit the library together often. Select books based on your child’s interests, or ask a librarian for help choosing age-appropriate books.

Literacy Activities: 3-4 Years

Sand/Flour/Cornmeal Letters:

- Pour flour or cornmeal in a large dish/cookie sheet or find an area with sand. Show your child how to use their fingers to write their name, the alphabet, or sight words in the flour or sand. Encourage your child to make drawings and try to write new words.

Materials: Sand/flour/cornmeal, large shallow bin or cookie sheet

Hey, That's My Letter Game:

- When reading to your child, ask them to pick out certain letters such as the first letter of their name. Every time they see the letter on the page, they should point out that letter. You can ask them to find letters that are found frequently in the book that you are reading. For example, you could ask them to find the letters 'C' and 'T' while reading "The Cat in the Hat."

Materials: Books of interest to your child

Beginning Sounds Bingo:

- First print out the game (found at: www.giftofcuriosity.com/product/beginning-sounds-bingo). Play with your child by saying a letter and then having them place a marker in the square with the picture that starts with that letter (e.g. they hear "D" and then find the dog picture). Show your child the reference sheet if they are struggling. Help them find the correct pictures as needed to avoid frustration.

Materials: Bingo playing sheets, bingo reference pages, bingo markers

Letter Matching Game:

- Write the upper and lower case of the same letters on two different pieces of the same colored paper, then mix them up. Have your child pair each set of letters. Paint sample cards from the hardware store can be used. Ask the sales person if you can select enough for the entire alphabet.

Materials: Pieces of colored paper, markers, scissors

Literacy Activities: 5 Years

Sight Word Catch:

- Play sight word catch. Write sight words that your child is learning on individual pieces of masking tape and place those pieces of tape around a ball. Throw the ball back and forth with your child, and ask them to read the word on the ball that their thumb lands on. When you catch the ball, you can also read the word that your own thumb lands on so that your child becomes familiar with hearing the words on the ball. When your child is familiar with all the words on the ball, you can replace them with new ones. This can also be done with the letters of the alphabet and numbers.

Materials: Large ball (kick or basketball), masking tape, markers, list of sight words

Sight Word Memory Cards:

- Create a memory card game for your child with sight words. You can write ten pairs of sight words on flash cards or use an online template. Mix the cards up and lay them face-down on a flat surface. Have your child turn cards over two at a time to look for matching pairs. If the two cards they flipped over are a matching pair, remove them from the game and have your child read the word. If the two cards are not a matching pair, say each word and then put them back in their places face down. Continue the game until all ten pairs have been matched. If your child is having trouble with the game, you can use fewer matching pairs until your child feels more confident.

Materials: Flash cards, marker, list of sight words

Mystery Bag:

- Place three or more objects that start with the same letter inside a bag. Have your child pull out all the objects and name them. Then ask for the “mystery letter.” For example, if you had a pencil, paper, paint, and a toy pig in your bag, the “mystery letter” would be “P.” Extend this activity by getting your child involved in finding more objects around the house that begin with that letter.

Materials: Paper bags, objects of the same beginning letters

Erase the Sound:

- Draw something on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or with pencil and paper. Say a letter aloud, have your child identify an object in the drawing that starts with that letter, and then erase that object. For example, a drawing of a house has a door for “D,” a window for “W,” and a porch for “P.”

Materials: White/chalk board and markers

Environmental Print

Ask your child to identify these images. Have a conversation about where they might be found or who might use them.



Trace the Letters

Trace the dotted lines to finish the letters.

Aa Bb Cc Dd E

e Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm N

n Oo Pp Qq R

r Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz



Trace the Words

Trace the dotted lines to finish the words.

I

can

am

we

a

the

see

in

Sight Word Search

Find the sight words below by looking up, down, and across!

LIKE THE FOR THAT
WHAT DID NOT WHEN
HOW AND HAVE THIS

L Y H O W F M N
O C V W H A T L
F Y L D T H A T
O H N I N L G H
R A J Y K D N I
I V S K I E O S
P E K D H V T V
I D Z W T H E W

Sentence Strips

Help your child practice writing words and sentences.

The page contains ten sets of horizontal writing lines. Each set is composed of three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are spaced evenly down the page to provide a template for writing words and sentences.

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*“You can find magic wherever you look.
Sit back and relax, all you need is a book!”*

– Dr. Seuss



[tempe.gov/government/human-services/family-community-support/
kindergarten-readiness/read-on-tempe](https://tempe.gov/government/human-services/family-community-support/kindergarten-readiness/read-on-tempe)