

# Help Children Read Checklist

By Lauren Meir

- Encourage Early Language Development**
  - Speak to your child in full sentences** Children learn ;by listening, so the more you speak to them the faster they will learn.
  - Keep language simple but expressive, and avoid baby-talk** ;The more you talk the more they will understand and respond.
  - Sing to your child** Children learn first through ;rhythm ;and sound, and songs will encourage phonetic development.
  - Engage your child in conversation** Have quality discussions on topics ranging from lunchtime to family members to the color of the moon.
  - Use synonyms** Expand your child's vocabulary early by using different words for the same feeling, action, or object.
- Encourage Literacy Development**
  - Read outloud the names of stores, signs on the road, ingredients on the cereal box** ..everything! Seeing the words and hearing how they sound will help them retain vocabulary, and introduce them to written language.
  - Read to your child every day.** It is never to early to start reading, and will instill in them an appreciation for books
  - Make story time fun and comfortable** This will be a good bonding experience and create positive association with reading.
  - Visit the library often** The library can be a fun place to learn and cultivate their budding knowledge.
  - Illustrate the difference between letters and numbers.**
  - Spell out the words you see, and pronounce them outloud with your child.**
- Encourage Writing Development**
  - Playing with clay, beads, and blocks will help children develop the fine-motor skills required for writing.**
  - Draw pictures with your child** Children are very visual, and learning to write starts with scribbles and pictures.
  - Make up stories with your child** Make story time an interactive experience; write a story together.
  - Teach your child the letters of his/her name and show them how to write it.**
  - Use their interests to boost reading and writing skills** Find books on subjects they love (animals, sports, etc)., read the stories together and encourage them to write their own.