

Every **CHILD**  
Ready to **READ**<sup>®</sup>  
@ your library<sup>®</sup>

# Fun

with Letters  
for  
Parents & Children





# ★ Goals for Today's Workshop

- Overview of the program's values & ECRR's six pre-reading skills
- Review of best practices for building those skills
- Activity ideas and book recommends
- Tips for engaging children in early literacy activities
- Share New Orleans Public Library and community resources supporting early literacy



# BINGO

There was a farmer who had a dog.

And BINGO was his name-O.

B-I-N-G-O,

B-I-N-G-O,

B-I-N-G-O, and BINGO was his name-O.

{Repeat, but each time drop a letter and  
clap instead.}





Why are parents so  
important in helping  
their children get  
ready to read?



## Core Values of Program

You are your child's first teacher.

You know your child best.

Children learn best by doing,  
and they love doing things with you.





Reading is essential to school success.

Children become “ready to read” between 4 and 7 years old, but becoming “ready to read” starts at birth.

You are already doing activities to help your child be ready to read.





# Six Skills for Early Literacy

Print Motivation - I Love Books

Print Awareness - I See Words

Phonological Awareness - I Hear Words  
and Sounds

Narrative Skills - I Tell Stories

Vocabulary - I Know Words

Letter Knowledge - I Know My ABC's



Five simple practices help children  
get ready to read.

 **Talking** |  **Singing** |  **Reading** |  **Writing** |  **Playing**



Help your child  
get ready to  
read with simple  
activities every  
day.



### Pre-reading skills:

- Name all 26 letters.
- Match letter names with letter shapes.
- Match letters with their sounds.



**Letter knowledge** is knowing the letters are different from each other and that they have different names and **sounds** to talk about:

- The shapes of toys and other objects.

“This ball is round.”

“This block is square and has corners.”

- How things are alike and different.

Letters that are most interesting to your child.

***Practice Talking:*** Letter Shapes







Talk about letter  
names and  
sounds as  
you go through  
everyday  
activities.

## Print Awareness

How do we build letter knowledge during our daily routines?

Talk about the letters around you!

- Can you find an “M”?
- Can you find two “O”s?
- Can you find the letter at the beginning of your name?

Practice Talking: Paper Plate I-Spy





Clapping once for  
each letter in the  
alphabet song  
helps children  
hear the sound of  
each individual  
letter.



# Singing about letters.

Let's sing the alphabet  
song!

Let's Listen to a  
Letter Song Together





Sing the ABC song  
fast and slow, again  
and again!

Learning letter names and sounds.

Let's practice with

Spelling Songs





Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful.



Alphabet books are a great way to read, play and learn letters. Did you know there are many different types of alphabet books?!



- letter shapes
  - word play
  - art play
- topical/thematic
- multicultural
- narrative stories
  - puzzles

Alphabet books are not intended just for the emergent reader--there is a wide range of ABC books with intriguing stories, captivating illustrations, playful texts, and puzzling mysteries.

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Alphabet books  
help children  
learn letter  
names and  
sounds.

Reading



Let's share an alphabet book.





Make learning about letters a hands-on experience. Form letters from many materials.



## Writing letters.

- Make letter-shaped cookies
- Trace letters
- Use magnetic letters
- “Write” your name in a tray of rice
- Form letters with clay or pipe cleaners





# Letter Knowledge

Letter Knowledge is only part of the equation!

Where  
can you  
write  
letters  
during  
your  
daily  
routines?

*Research finding:* Decoding skills such as phonological awareness and letter names are the strongest predictors of early reading success. These constrained skills are highly predictive of immediate success in kindergarten. Yet if these are the only skills children acquire, they will likely struggle in learning to read. Unconstrained skills, such as narrative (story telling) and vocabulary are a greater predictor of long term reading success.

**Parent Tip:** For activity ideas to reinforce those skills in your daily routines, we also have Fun with Words and Fun with Stories workshops!





There are many  
ways  
to talk, sing,  
read, write, and  
play with letters.



Play is vital for early learning. It is not “recess” or a “timeout” from learning, rather it *IS* the way young children learn.

One of the fun way for children can play with letter shapes is through constructive play:

- Carrying
- Stacking
- Bridging
- Enclosure
- Patterns and Symmetry
- Early Representational
- Later Representational





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to talk, sing,  
read, write, and  
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Have fun with letters  
every day.  
Have fun with letters  
in many ways!

Here are some of the ways we've talked  
about today:

- Letter Hopscotch
- Letter Hide-n-Seek
- Letter Tic-Tac-Toe
- Letter Sound Game
- Letter Book Making
- Alphabet Books

Do you have fun ideas for playing with  
letters in your home?

**Your Library  
has  
parenting  
advice in  
books and  
on DVDs.**



Set up a Quiet Zone where your children can sit away from tv, video games, and noise.

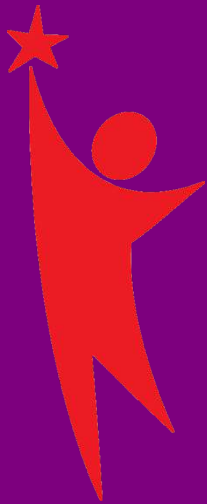
A Quiet Hour before bedtime—for bedtime reading, bath, and non-electronic toys--will help your child fall asleep at bedtime.



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**We have weekly  
story hours.**

**Bring a friend to  
story hour.**



Your library helps children  
get ready to read.



 **Talking** |  **Singing** |  **Reading** |  **Writing** |  **Playing**



Please come to future  
Every Child Ready to Read classes  
for parents and caregivers.



- Fun with Stories
- Fun with Words
- Fun with Science and  
Math

We also offer PrimeTime Family Reading Time, a program for families with children ages 6 to 12. It is a 6-week program of free workshops with meals, transportation, and rewards.



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**Thanks for  
Coming.  
Keep Coming  
Back!**