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Thursday, March 26, 2015 / COMMUNITY

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- Men's Metal & Wood Decor
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Library Corner

— Shelly Wimberley Youth Librarian

Early literacy skills at your library

Learning to read begins well before a child starts school.

From the time they are infants, children develop early literacy and language skills that will lay the foundation for them to learn to read. A child's early years are the time to nurture and develop these skills so he or she will be ready to learn to read and write when it is time to go to school.

The first three years of a child's life are especially important because by the time a child reaches the age of three, 90 percent of the wiring of the brain is complete.

There are five basic activities you can do with your child to help them get ready to read: talking, singing, reading, writing and playing. Here are some book suggestions and simple activities you can use to encourage your child in the development of these fundamental early literacy skills

Reading

Reading to your child is the single most important thing you can do to get your child ready to read. Try to read with your child every day, even if it's just for a few minutes. When is the best time to start reading to your child? The day he or she comes to live at your house.

Book Suggestion — Books Always Everywhere by Jane Blatt. This book celebrates all the ways books can be incorporated into our everyday lives.

Activity — Let your child choose which book he or she would like to read, even if it's the same book over and over. Every

ment around while singing your favorite songs.

Talking

Talking with children helps them to learn new words. Make sure your child has lots of opportunities to talk with you, not just listen to you talk.

Book Suggestion — Bark, George by Jules Feiffer. The animal sounds in this silly story are a playful way to explore language sounds.

Activity — Ask your child open-ended questions that help stretch his or her conversation skills and vocabulary.

Writing

Writing helps children learn that printed words have meaning. Making scribbles and other marks are your child's first writing experience.

Book Suggestion — Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson. Children will love seeing how Harold writes and draws his way to many adventures.

Activity — Fill a large Ziploc bag with some paint or colored hair gel and seal the opening with duct tape. Tape the bag to a table and encourage your child to write on this fun, squishy surface.

Playing

Playing is learning. Through play, children develop narrative skills, symbolic thinking and social constructs.

Book Suggestion — Not a Box by Antoinette Portis. An imaginative bunny shows us that a box is not just a box. This book celebrates the power of open ended play with the simplest of materi-



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Singing

Singing is a fun way for your child to learn about language. Singing slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words.

Book Suggestion — I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison. The rhythmic language, rhyming words and fun beat in this book encourage the development of phonological skills.

Activity — Make a shaker egg by putting some uncooked rice in a plastic Easter egg and securely taping it closed. Your child will enjoy shaking the instru-

Activity — A great way to play with your child is at a library program that is geared specifically for play! The Owasso Library offers Stay and Play on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:30-11 a.m. At Stay and Play, parents have the opportunity to interact with their children, play with developmentally appropriate toys and art supplies and meet new friends.

The library has many programs, materials and activities to support you in your role as your child's first and best teacher. Bring your child to the library and explore the many wonderful resources available to you as you get your child ready to read.





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