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JENKS COMMUNITY / Thursday, February 13, 2014

South County Leader 13

# Get your child ready to read

By Cheryl Newman  
Branch Manager  
Jenks Public Library

Research has identified five simple activities that can help your child get ready to read. These activities are easy to do with children of any age. You and your child can enjoy them throughout the day – at home, in the car or anywhere you spend time together. What you do helps your child get ready to read.

**Talking:** Children learn about language by listening to caregivers talk and joining the conversation. Conversations help a child express thoughts, learn what words mean, and gain new information about the world. Any place is a good place to talk with your child. Listen to what your child says, answer questions, add new information and listen some more.



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ing with your children any chance you have. You don't need a perfect voice, just some enthusiasm. Play music especially written for children. Check out children's music CDs from the library.

**Reading:** Reading together with your children is the single most important way to help them get ready to read. It increases vocabulary and helps children learn how print looks and how books work. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read themselves. Show your child that reading is important by letting him or her see you read.

**Writing:** Reading and writing go together. Writing begins with scribbles and other

For newborns to 2-year-olds and their caregivers  
Preschool Storytime – Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
For ages 3-5

marks. Encourage children by providing opportunities to draw and write. Talk to your children about what they write or draw. This helps make a connection between spoken and printed language. When your child is ready to write letters, begin with uppercase letters and show examples of your writing.

**Playing:** Play is one of the best ways for children to learn language and literacy skills. Through play, children realize that one thing can stand for another. This also helps children understand that written words stand for real ob-

jects and experiences. Encourage children to use their imaginations and "play pretend." In this way they can create their own stories.

Storytime at the Tulsa City-County Library is the perfect opportunity to engage in all five of these activities with your child. At storytime we read books, sing songs, talk, learn about letters and play. To find out what storytime programs are taking place at your library location, check the Tulsa City-County Library Event Guide which is available at all locations or online at [TulsaLibrary.org](http://TulsaLibrary.org).

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