

Families for Literacy Program Newsletter

August, 2019

Tutors: please go over this newsletter (whatever is appropriate) with your adult students and encourage them to visit the Story Times with their children, it's a lot of fun and so very important:

**Children who grow up being read to, grow up to love books and reading.
Join our free Library Story Times to become a Family of Readers:**

Lakeport Library, Library Park, Lakeport, Fridays, 10:15 am

Middletown Library, 21256 Washington Street, Middletown, Tuesdays, 11:30 am

Redbud Library, 14785 Burns Valley Road, Clearlake, Thursdays, 10:30 am

Upper Lake, 310 2nd Street, Upper Lake, Thursdays, 2:30 pm (through August 29th)



**We all want our children to succeed in life. How can you help them?
It is easier than you think:**



**TALK
with us**

When you **talk, read, and sing** with your child, even before they can use words, you're helping them learn - and making them happier, too! Talking, Reading and Singing with your child every day from birth helps build their brains as well as important language, math, reading and social skills for use in school and beyond. Talk, read and sing with your child in the language you are most comfortable using. You probably naturally talk to your baby about the events of the day. Keep doing it, and do it more! The more words and conversations you share together, the better prepared they will be to learn.

Part 1: Tips for infants (look for part 2: Tips for toddlers in the next edition)

TALK

- ♥ Listen to the fun sounds your baby makes and repeat them. When they coo, coo back. Hold their hand gently and when they smile, smile back. Your loving touch combined with this back-and-forth "baby language" are the first steps in talking.
- ♥ Everywhere you go, talk about what you see and what your baby is looking at: "Wow, I see the four dogs, too!" "I love that red truck you're playing with. It goes beep beep!"
- ♥ Play "Peek-a-boo" while getting your baby dressed. Ask, "Where's (baby's name)?" when you pull a shirt over your baby's head. Then say, "There you are!"
- ♥ As you feed your baby, use words to describe what foods taste, feel, and look like. "That yellow banana is sweet!"
- ♥ Looking into your baby's eyes, holding your baby's hand, and talking to your baby in a high voice are all ways that you can help your child grow up to be a confident, loving adult.

**Did you know?? When you open a book with your child,
you open imagination and creativity.**



READ

- ♥ Read a book or tell a story to your baby every day - in whatever language you feel most comfortable - beginning at birth.
- ♥ Cuddle with your baby as you share a book. It doesn't matter how young your child is; even newborn babies are learning when their parents read with them.
- ♥ Point to the book's pictures: "Look, the train goes choo-choo!" Using words to describe what you see builds language.

Think R-E-A-D

R: Repetition! Children love to hear a story over and over.

E: Eye contact: let your little one know that you love reading to them. Eye contact is an early predictor of language skills. It makes adults' and babies' brainwaves 'get in sync' with each other -- which is likely to support communication and learning.

Attention to your child will help them in turn to become attentive.

Delight: The first—and best—tip for sharing books with young children is to have fun together! If children are engaged and enjoying themselves, they are learning. When children have positive interactions with books, they are developing good feelings. You can never be too silly, you can never be too goofy!

SING

Babies love the voice of their own parents more than any other, so don't worry if you think you're not a good singer. The sound of your voice is comforting to your baby.

- ♥ Hold your baby close during bedtime and sing a favorite song again and again. Singing the same song can help your baby feel calm and safe.

- ♥ Sing silly songs about your day to help get your baby's attention during diaper changing etc.

♥ Make your own lullabies - check this out: <https://youtu.be/dEzCz0UaSjc> →

Who knew it is so easy? (Credit to: <https://talkingisteaching.org/resources/literacy>)



I LIKE READING BOOKS (Tune: London bridge is falling down),
-or sing along with the original by the Fabulous Lemon Drops:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ouL4ZMEdl5>

I like reading books, it's fun
I often read them with my mom.
I like reading to explore,
There is no better way I'm sure.
I love reading!

There are many books to choose,
Get on board, you just can't lose.
Books expand your mind, it's true:
Reading books is good for you.
I love reading!

When I'm sitting on mom's lap
I go exploring in my head.
With new adventures on the way
Drift off and dream the night away.
I love reading!

I Love You

(Tune: This Old Man)

I love you, (Babies arms in, pointing to self)
You love me (Babies arms extended out)
We're as happy as can be! (Rocking baby side to side)
Here's a great big kiss
And a hug from me to you,
Won't you say you love me too! (Rocking baby side to side)

Remember: You are your child's first and most important teacher!

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