

# Early Literacy begins with you.

Talking | Singing | Reading | Writing | Playing

You can help your child get ready to read with simple activities.

Your public library can show you how.



New Brunswick  
Public Library  
Service

Why is it important for children to get ready to read before they start school?

Early literacy is the foundation of a child's future education. Children with pre-reading skills can jump right into learning to read when they enter kindergarten.

*It's never too early or too late to help your child develop early literacy skills. Here are **five of the best ways** for children to get ready to read.*



Based on the  
American Library  
Association's program

EveryCHILD  
Ready to READ  
@ your library®

1. **Talking** helps children learn how words sound, what words mean and how words can be put together.
  - Make sure your child has lots of opportunities to talk with you, not just listen to you talk.
2. **Singing** slows down language so children can hear the different sounds in words.
  - Sing the alphabet song to learn about letters.
  - Sing nursery rhymes so children hear the different sounds in words.
  - Clap along to the rhythms in songs so children hear the syllables in words.

3. **Reading** with your child is the single most important way to help them get ready to read. Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read themselves.

- Read every day.
- Talk together as you read: make comments, ask questions, figure out what happens next.
- Reading with your child helps teach new words.

4. **Writing** and reading go together. Learning the shapes and sounds of letters is an important step for both skills.

- Encourage scribbling and mark-making.
- Have your child "sign" their name on drawings to help them understand that letters represent words.

5. **Playing** helps children understand that spoken and written words can stand for real things. Play also helps children express themselves and put thoughts into words.

- Give your child time to play freely. This lets children use their imaginations and create stories.
- Encourage imaginative play. When children make up stories, they develop important storytelling skills.

Your public library can show you how to help your child get ready to read. Bring your child to the library and enjoy it together!

[www.gnb.ca/publiclibraries](http://www.gnb.ca/publiclibraries)