



**child care
resources**
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tip|sheet 

Ideas and information about child development and early education for parents, professionals and the community-at-large.

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To access these Tip Sheets, please visit www.childcareresourcesinc.org or call Child Care Search at 704-348-2181 to speak with a Parent Counselor.

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Resource & Referral Service

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Literacy for Preschoolers

The preschool years are an important time to instill in children a lifelong love of books and reading. What better way to encourage young children to read than to show them how much fun books and reading can be! By enhancing pre-reading skills during a child's early years through activities and story sharing, early childhood educators can take steps to help prevent reading difficulties that may arise later in children's lives.

There are many types of reading and language activities that early childhood educators can do in the classroom to help children build skills they will need to become successful readers. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Make books and magazines readily accessible to children by providing shelving or baskets filled with books and a quiet area for children to enjoy a book by themselves or with a friend.
- Encourage children to write by making pencils, crayons or markers, and paper available. Before children can read the words on the page, they will make up their own story to go along with the illustrations. This is an important step in a child's pre-reading skills.
- Share stories in the classroom in a story time or circle time format. When you do this be sure to choose books with bright, colorful illustrations and stories that are clear and appropriate for preschool children. Choose books with repeating words or phases that children can say along with the reader. Show enthusiasm when reading a book to a group of children and they will be enthusiastic about the book, as well. Read a book several

times before sharing with a group so that it is familiar. Learn to read while holding the book at arms-length and with the illustrations facing the group of children so that the pictures can be seen as the story is read.

- Encourage children to talk about the stories they have recently heard in story time and act them out. Let the children use flannel boards and props to make their stories come to life. Activities that require this kind of creative expression will make the book more relevant for the children by allowing them to connect emotions with the written word.

A helpful on-line resource that will inspire you to share good books with preschool children is the BookHive at www.bookhive.org, a web site designed for children ages birth through twelve, their parents, teachers or anyone interested in reading about children's books. This site contains hundreds of recommended book reviews in a variety of reading levels and



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interest areas. Users can search for books by author, title, reading level, interest area, number of pages, and even favorite illustrator. BookHive also provides list of recommended books, arranged by age.

Recommended titles for preschoolers:

- *A Mother for Choco* by Keiko Kasza
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin, Jr.
- *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
- *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by Eileen Christenlow
- *Going to the Zoo* by Tom Paxton
- *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle
- *Who Hops?* by Katie Davis
- *Mouse's Birthday* by Jane Yolen
- *Se venden gorras (Caps For Sale)* by Esphyr Slobokina
- *Who Is The Beast?* by Keith Baker
- *One, Two, Three* by Pat Mora
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr.
- *Good Night, Gorilla* - Peggy Rathmann
- *Pio Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes* by Alma Flor Ada
- *A Taste of the Mexican Market* by Nancy Maria Grande Tabor
- *A Chari for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams
- *A Pocket for Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion
- *Is Your Mama a Llama?* by Deborah Guarino
- *I Went Walking* by Sue Williams
- *Ten Little Fingers* by Jose Luis Orozco
- *Ten, Nine, Eight* by Molly Bang

Remember to share books you love with your children every day and they will love them too!

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