



Why Early Literacy Matters

- Reading aloud to children builds **vocabulary**, strengthens **brain development**, and **fosters imagination**.
- Children who are read to regularly hear **millions more words** by kindergarten.
- Early exposure to books helps children recognize print and **prepares them for reading in school**.

What This Looks Like in the Playspace

During your shift, you may notice children:

- Turning pages, pointing to pictures, or naming objects.
- Listening to stories and asking questions.
- Pretending to read to dolls or stuffed animals.
- Recognizing letters or rhyming words.
- Drawing or scribbling as part of storytelling.

Your Role as a PAL

You can encourage early literacy by:

- Reading aloud with **enthusiasm**, using different voices for characters.
- Letting children turn pages and explore books at their own pace.
- Asking **open-ended questions** about the story or pictures.
- Connecting book content to a child's **own experiences**.
- Pointing out **letters, numbers, and shapes**.

TRY IT YOURSELF!

Supporting Early Literacy Skills



Reading is one of the most powerful ways we can support a child's growth. In the Playspace, your warmth, curiosity, and engagement can make reading an exciting adventure.

AGE GROUP	WHAT YOU CAN DO
Infants & Toddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use sturdy board or cloth books with colorful pictures.• Name objects, colors, and shapes as you read.• Sing rhymes and use playful voices.
Preschoolers (3 - 5 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choose picture books, alphabet, and counting books.• Ask, "What happens next?" in familiar stories.• Encourage them to retell the story in their own words.
School-Ready (5 - 6 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce longer stories and fairy tales.• Point out letters in their name.• Encourage writing and drawing related to the story.

*By turning each story into a **shared experience**, you help children see themselves as **storytellers** and **learners** building skills and confidence that last a lifetime.*

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