



Including Literacy-Related Activities in the Daily Schedule¹

You can support young children's literacy development by:

- ⇒ Reading to children every day.
- ⇒ Singing songs and learning finger plays.
- ⇒ Writing what children say.
- ⇒ Providing a variety of opportunities to use language.
- ⇒ Displaying books and providing time and place for children to explore them.
- ⇒ Encouraging children to write.
- ⇒ Surrounding children with printed materials, signs, and posters.



Think about how literacy can be integrated into all learning activities. See the following chart for examples.

Activity	Literacy Focus
Block building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Have paper, markers, and tape available for children to make signs for block building. ✿ Include books on architecture and building to inspire children. ✿ Encourage children to make blueprints of buildings they wish to make.
Toys and games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Discuss colors, shapes, and pictures in games. ✿ Provide matching games for visual discrimination.
Dramatic play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Create “prop” boxes around themes and include literacy-related materials. For example, a doctor's office prop box might include a sign-in sheet for patients, magazines to read while waiting to see the doctor, an eye chart to test vision, a prescription pad for the doctor to fill in, and patient charts to complete. ✿ Provide books related to children's dramatic play.



Activity	Literacy Focus
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Invite children to dictate stories to go with artwork.✿ Share books about famous artists and their work with children.
Sand and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Add literacy props, such as letter molds or road signs, to sand play.✿ Encourage children to use words to describe how the sand and water feel.
Music and movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Write words to a favorite song on a chart.✿ Have children use instruments for the sound effects in stories.
Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Use pictures and words on recipe cards.✿ Have a sign-up sheet for snacks.
Computers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Use an app or program to make a book.✿ Enjoy interactive books, such as the <i>Clifford</i> books.
Outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Bring colored chalk and other writing materials outside.✿ Have children observe street signs in the neighborhood.
Group times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Read, tell, and dramatize stories every day.✿ Lead discussions on how to listen to others.
Daily routines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Use pictures and words to create a daily schedule children can refer to.✿ Have children sign in each day.

¹ Based on Dodge, D.T., Colker, L.J., & Heroman, C. *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*. 4th edition. Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, 2002.