

Getting Ready to Read and Write

At birth your baby's brain is remarkably unfinished and ready to learn. The things your child experiences over and over in early childhood form strong connections in your child's brain that last a lifetime. The very best ways to encourage brain connections that support learning to talk, read, and write are fun and can be done in the course of your everyday activities!

As your baby develops, you can:

- Cuddle, smile, talk, sing, and rock with your baby.
- Talk about what you're doing as you interact with your child.
- Sing your favorite songs together. Recite rhymes over and over.
- Enjoy books together everyday. Discuss the pictures and story. Take your time and follow your child's interests. Visit your public library.



As your child continues to develop, you can:

- Limit TV watching. Watch and discuss the shows you choose with your child.
- Point out printed words and share what they mean with your child.
- Let your child see you reading and writing.
- Encourage your child to use writing and drawing materials. Scribble. Draw pictures. Begin writing the letters of your child's name and say each letter.
- Choose caregivers who talk, sing, read, draw, and write with children.

Caring for your child's brain development includes both stimulation and protection. Treat your child gently. Shaking, throwing, or jerking your child could easily cause permanent damage to his/her developing brain.

You are your child's first teacher. With your help, your child will build important skills and knowledge throughout childhood and know that learning is fun!

Want to know more?

- Children's brain development..... UW-Extension 608-224-3722
- Learning to read and write..... Madison School District 608-663-5235
- Finding child care..... 4-C of Dane County 608-271-9181
- Accredited family child care..... Satellite Family Child Care 608-275-6740
- Managing anger and stress..... Parental Stress of Dane County
18 hr confidential 608-241-2221