

**Getting Ready for Reading  
and Writing**  
2 - 3 years



Show your child each day how you read and write to get things done. Look in the newspaper together to find out the weather or select a movie.

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Label your child's drawings. Ask him to tell you about the picture he made and write the words on the bottom of the paper.

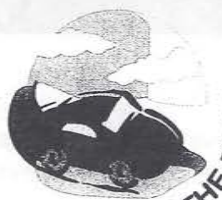
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Show your child how you read the address label on mail. Let your child deliver mail to family members.

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Hang letters at your child's eye level on the refrigerator or your child's bedroom door. Name them often.

**Getting Ready for Reading  
and Writing**  
3 - 4 years



Give your child paper and crayons to draw while in a restaurant.

Encourage her to tell a story about the drawings and write down the words.

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Point out familiar logos to your child. Soon he'll recognize the name without your help.

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Keep a small chalkboard and chalk in the car. As you drive, your child can practice drawing or writing letters and numbers of the road signs he sees.

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Sing the alphabet song to your child in the car. Ask her to sing with you.



Give your child a straw or safe stick and practice shapes, lines, or letters in the sand or dirt.

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Tell stories about the different kinds of jobs people have in your neighborhood. Tell a story about the bus driver, mail carrier, fire fighter, ambulance driver.

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Before going outside, ask your child to tell you what he likes to do or is going to do outside today.

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Write three activities on a list. After playing, point to each activity on the list and see how many you did.

**Getting Ready for Reading  
and Writing**  
1 - 2 years



Look at word labels on cans, bottles, and boxes. Ask your child to guess what the words are by looking at the pictures on the products.

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Show your child how the word on a coupon matches the words on the product. Point out a particular letter, shape, or number.

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Encourage your child to look for familiar words and logos on products.

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Talk about how many things you are buying to develop number concepts (*three apples, two boxes of cereal, four cans of soup*).