

LAW OFFICES
RONALD V. MCGUCKIN AND ASSOCIATES

Post Office Box 2126

Bristol, Pennsylvania 19007

Office (215) 785-3400 Fax (215) 785-3401

Childproviderlaw.com

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Ronald V. McGuckin

Jason D. Dalton

CHILD CARE SPECIALISTS

Dawn K. Martini

Janice A. Nielwocki

LITERACY IN THE HOME

Set the Foundation: READ, READ, READ

Language is the first link to early literacy (the ability to read and write the printed word.) Parents have the opportunity to build early literacy skills by including emergent literacy activities into everyday parent practices. A strong link exists between literacy and school performance, self-esteem and adult life success.

The most important thing a parent can do to build early literacy skills and prepare his/her child for later reading/school success is to: **READ, READ, READ**. Reading aloud to your young child lays the foundation for your child to become a successful reader!

Benefits of Reading Aloud:

- builds vocabulary
- builds alphabet recognition
- exposes children to sounds (phonemes) and language patterns
- allows children to learn the structure of a story
- helps children to learn the characteristics of the written language
- helps children understand the connection between language and print
- provides children with information
- demonstrates the proper handling of books
- identifies reading as a pleasurable activity
- helps children develop a love of reading!!!

Tips for Reading Aloud

1. Always read the book once to yourself before you read it to your child
2. Read slowly and clearly
3. Be enthusiastic as you read
4. Let your tone change with the story
5. Give characters different voices (kids love this)!
6. Point out beginning sounds
7. Point to illustrations
8. Read favorites again and again
9. Make books available to your child

Tips for Reading Aloud (continued)

10. Encourage your child to “write” his/her own book.
11. Visit your local library.
12. Provide a “literature” rich home environment (books, but also magazines, newspapers, etc.
13. Read street signs, menus (things in everyday life)
14. HAVE FUN (if it’s not fun your child is not going to want to do it)

Types of Books:

- Picture storybooks: Text and illustrations tell the story in picture storybooks.
- Participation Books: These books promote interaction.
- Concept Books: Expand children’s understanding of an idea, relationship or theme. Provide illustrated examples of various ideas and words.
- Predictable Books: Involve children in the reading experience. Patterned language, repetitive phrases and predictable storylines.
- Wordless Books: Contain little or no text but have a real story to tell. Readers must interpret the stories from the pictures, examining details and expressions carefully.
- Nursery Rhymes: Natural for children. Passed down from generation to generation. Often musical, lyrical.
- Folktale and Fables: Often have a moral concept or theme. Some have a historical or cultural basis and help children learn about diverse cultures and experiences.
- Poetry: Introduces children to the sounds of language. Rhyming poetry especially those with playful words help children develop phonemic awareness.
- Rhyming Books: Children benefit from hearing rhyming language and repetitive sounds. Hearing stories that contain rhymes prepare children for reading by helping them focus on the sounds in words.
- ABC or Alphabet Books: Help children recognize letters; familiarizes them with the alphabet and helps children to realize that letters are used in language.
- Counting Books: Often focus on numbers 1-5, or 1-10. Important because they introduce children to the language associated with numbers. Lets children know that numbers are symbols.
- Informational Books: Non-fiction books that are written about topics that children have a natural interest in. For preschoolers, they are usually simple in style and focus on subjects that are familiar to the children’s environment.