

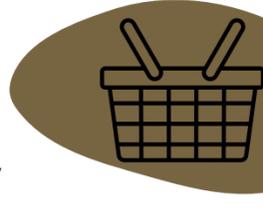
# Supporting Pre-Readers

*Young children learn about reading and language through playing, talking, singing, book-handling, and stories. These simple activities help build early literacy skills in fun, meaningful ways.*



## Sing Together

Songs help children build oral language, confidence, and listening skills. Rhyming songs like *Down by the Bay* and *Hickory Dickory Dock* are especially helpful. Try pausing during the song and see if your child will fill in the missing rhyming word.



## Sort by Beginning Sound

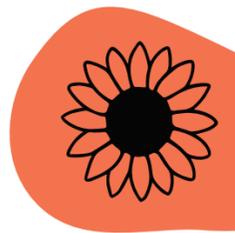
Collect items from around the house that start with different sounds (e.g., ball, book, banana, teddy, toque, towel). Mix them together and invite your child to sort them by their beginning sound.



## Play "I Spy a Letter"

Look for letters in your environment such as on signs, books, labels, or packaging and play an "I Spy" game together. For example: "I spy the letter Y. Can you find it?"

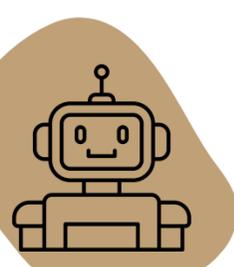
When your child is ready, try using letter sounds instead of letter names. For example: "I spy something that starts with a /b/ sound. Can you find it?"



## Play with Compound Words

A compound word is a word made up of two smaller words put together. For example: sun + flower = sunflower

Playing with compound words helps children hear the parts inside words. Say a compound word and ask your child to take one part away. For example: "Say sunflower. Now say sunflower without sun." Your child says: "flower."



## Speak Like a Robot

Learning to read involves hearing and blending sounds. Try "robot talk" by breaking words apart. Start with syllables and move to individual sounds when your child is ready. A syllable is a chunk of a word. You can often hear syllables by clapping the parts of a word (e.g., ba-na-na has three claps).

For example:  
"Try to guess my word: po...ta...to."

"Try to guess my word: sh...i...p."



## Read Every Day!

Reading to your child every day helps build language, thinking, and early literacy skills. Read in your first language and make reading a regular part of your day. While reading, talk about the story together. Pause to ask questions like:

- "What do you think will happen next?"
- "Does this story remind you of another book?"

Running your finger under the words as you read helps your child learn that print moves from left to right.