

Especially for parents of infants!

Places To Go and People To See

Literacy Learning Experiences

Babies' homes are rich in moments that set the stage for later reading and writing. Things that happen outside the home also help infants learn early language and literacy skills.

What is the practice?

Routine family and community outings provide a child lots of early learning opportunities. They introduce infants to people and places that are sources of rich learning experiences. This practice guide includes activities for learning communication, language, and the beginnings of reading and writing.



What does the practice look like?

Things that happen day in and day out provide a child chances to hear sounds and words. See pictures and symbols. And introduce a child to reading and writing. These things happen all the time. This can be something as simple as seeing labels on boxes or cans at a store. It also can be something like infant story times at a public library.

How do you do the practice?

The ideas in this practice guide are things your child might already do. Getting your child more involved in these and other activities is what the practice is about.

- Start by thinking about things your child will most likely enjoy. The more interesting an activity, the more likely your child will try to communicate and talk.
- Take part in your child's play. What is your child most likely to do? Look for your child to make sounds, point, reach, get excited, and more.
- Talk about what your child is doing. Describe what your child is looking at, touching, and playing with. Use short sentences and questions. "You see the kitty, don't you?"
- Respond to your child's use of gestures or sounds. Repeat what your child does or says. This tells your child that he got you to play.
- Urge your child to show you what he is doing or looking at. Tune in to what your child is doing. The more you do this, the better the chance that he will want to "tell you" what he is doing.

How do you know the practice worked?

- Does your child use gestures or sounds to get you to play?
- Does your child get excited when you use words to describe what he is doing?
- Does your child show more interest in starting or playing an activity?

More learning during baby's everyday routines

Rhymes & Songs

Tim is 4 months old. He likes to play games that involve rhymes and singing. He gets all worked up playing **Peek-a-Boo**, hearing **Baby's Eyes**, and hearing his parents say **Rock-a-Bye Baby**. Tim's mother and father try to include these kinds of rhymes in their son's everyday routines. Dad plays **Peek-a-Boo** while changing Tim's diaper. He plays **I'm Gonna Get You** while feeding Tim. Mom plays **This Little Piggy** while putting on and taking off Tim's clothes. She recites **These Are Tim's Fingers** while they play on the floor. Tim's day is full of these fun-filled language and early literacy activities.



On the Town

Bryan and his mother spend lots of time seeing friends, running errands, shopping for food, and going to community events. One of 9-month-old Bryan's most liked things is having mom or dad read him stories. Bryan's mother uses his love of reading as part of what they do when out and about. Mom has a list of places they go to provide Bryan reading and storytelling experiences. Her list includes their local library, a bookstore, recreation center, grocery store, a neighbor's house, and a local theatre. Bryan so much looks forward to what he will get to do next!



Everyday Literacy Activities

Scribbling with crayons or magic markers
Playing with alphabet blocks or letter magnets
Listening to music
Playing *Peek-a-Boo* or *So-Big*
Playing finger games and clapping games
Playing rhyming games

Playing with puppets and stuffed toys
Going to the library
Talking on the phone
Having pretend phone calls
Going food shopping
Taking car or bus rides

