There are five early literacy practices that every child needs to get ready to read, listen, and write. These activities are designed to encourage parents and caregivers to engage in these early literacy practices with their children all while exploring art, science, math, and more! Get ready to talk, sing, read, write, and play!

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Read
- **Play with books!** Open a board or cloth book for infants to look at during tummy time. Toddlers can hold the book, turn the pages, and interact with the book.
- **Read an interactive book** that encourages engaging with the story such as a lift-the-flap, touch & feel, or action book.
- **Listen to a story** on a podcast, an audiobook, or by attending Storytime at the library.
- **Tell a story** about a drawing or photo. Choose a picture you like and describe what is happening.
- **Pick a sound or word of the day** to focus on with foods that start with the sound, books or songs that use your word, and activities that use that sound or word.

Sing
- **Move** slowly to classical music.
- **Sing transition songs** such as "Clean Up, Clean Up" or "Wash, Wash, Wash, Your Hands."
- **Sing high, low, loud, and soft** with your child to help them explore and become aware of their voice.
- **Listen to music and sing along** or make up your own song.
- **Play with musical instruments** or get out the pots and pans and wooden spoons. Explore the different sounds various sizes make.

Play
- **Play with Bubbles:** Blow bubbles for infants to watch. Toddlers can practice blowing bubbles, which uses muscle movements that help develop talking skills.
- **Play Lap Games!** Find suggestions at carylibrary.org/lap-games.
- Go to a park or play in your backyard, but have some fun playing outside!
- **Try a new fruit or vegetable** and have a conversation about the experience.
- **Color Mixing:** Mix cups of colored water or paint sealed tightly in a bag. Make predictions about how the colors will transform.

Talk
- **Clap out the syllables** in different words, songs, and the ABCs.
- **Go for a walk** and talk about what you see, explore items you find along the way, or count the number of steps between two points.
- **Explore faces in the mirror.** Point out the parts and make silly expressions.
- "**Read" a wordless book.** Look at each page, talk about what is happening, and ask what happens next.
- **Have a conversation,** allowing your child time to respond whether with words, a babble, or coo.

Write
- **Finger Paint.** Fill a large tray or baking sheet with yogurt, pudding, paint, flour, corn starch, or other material that you and your child choose and draw in the tray.
- **Paint with Water:** Let your child explore using a variety of brushes and sponges to "paint" any outdoor surface with water.
- **Play with stickers.** Peeling and placing stickers helps develop fine motor skills.
- **Put crayon to paper and make your mark.**
- **Play with rubber or potato stamps** on paper. To make a potato stamp, cut a potato in half and carve a shape into the cut face.