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**
- "Read" signs and common symbols in the community. What do the different shapes and colors mean?
- Pick a sound or word of the day and integrate it into your day with foods that start with the sound, books or songs that use your word, and activities that use that sound or word.
- Read a rhyming book. Pay attention to the words that rhyme (sound the same). Can you think of other words that rhyme?
- Retell a story from a book or act it out! Pretend to be characters from a book and act out the story.
- Listen to a story on a podcast, an audiobook, or by attending Storytime at the library.

**Sing**
- Sing a book! There are picture book versions of many familiar songs.
- Paper plate dancing: Use a paper plate to tap on parts of the body to keep the beat.
- Do action rhymes such as "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes."
- Have a conversation entirely in song.
- Sing transition songs such as "Clean Up, Clean Up" or "Wash, Wash, Wash, Your Hands."

**Play**
- Wall Art: Cover a wall in large paper and draw or paint a picture or mural.
- Play pretend. Imagination-driven play helps develop language, social and emotional, and thinking skills.
- Go to a park or play in your backyard, but have some fun playing outside!
- Collect a variety of similar items of different shapes, sizes, and colors to sort and count.
- Invite a friend to play. Which games are better with two or more people?

**Talk**
- Clap out the syllables in different words, songs, and the ABCs.
- Call someone on the telephone. This uses different skills than video chat or face-to-face communication.
- Play a communication game like I Spy, Telephone, or Simon Says.
- Talk using puppets and have an imaginative conversation.
- Play "What's Better," choosing between 2 items. For example, what's better: apples or bananas?

**Write**
- Help your child practice writing their name. Offer outlines to color in or letters to trace or copy.
- Make an experience book telling the story of an outing or vacation. Talk with your child to select photos, souvenirs, and artifacts from the experience to help illustrate what happened.
- Play with modeling dough or clay. Explore by creating shapes and letters with the clay or rolling it into a sheet to write on.
- Help your child practice finding and typing out the ABCs on a keyboard.
- Paint with Water: Let your child explore using a variety of brushes and sponges to "paint" any outdoor surface with water.