

# Tips for Families and Professionals About Making Literacy a Consistent and Valued Part of Daily Routines At Home and In Childcare and Socialization Settings



Families will be stronger teachers of beginning language and literacy when they are more aware of the significant contribution they make to their child's learning.

Identify ways to use literacy more often in daily routines.

- Examples: playing computer games, writing and using grocery lists, watching TV or videos with children and talking about them together, singing songs along with the radio or MTV, writing notes to other adults or older children

Explain the connection between language development in babies and learning to read in school.

- Be able to tell others how talking to infants and toddlers, telling stories; talking about experiences, or singing and reciting rhymes help a young child to learn language

Think about the value of language and literacy rich parent-child interactions and plan ways to include activities into each day.

- Listening and talking to children while riding on the bus, or walking in from the play yard
- Reading picture books while waiting at the WIC office or for a parent to pick up a child,
- Telling a child you are writing a note to someone and what you are saying as you write it

When others see literacy as work which needs to be practiced, share the research that shows that children who are frequently read to for fun are the ones who are most ready for learning to read in school.

