

KINDERGARTEN LITERACY TIPS

- Enjoy reading books to your child each day. Talk about the story and the pictures as you read. Ask your child questions about the story before, during, and after reading, such as:
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - Why do you think the character did that?
 - Who were the characters in the book? Where did the story take place?
 - What happened in the beginning/middle/end of the story?
 - What does this story make you think about/remind you of?
- Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmm."
- Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's name and sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.
- Make letters and words out of play-doh, yarn, pipe cleaners, etc.
- Look for our sight words in books or practice making them with magnetic letters.
- Put magnetic letters or flashcards in alphabetical order from A-Z. Practice matching the capital letters with their corresponding lowercase letter.
- Go on a letter hunt. Pick a letter and see how many of that letter you can find in a newspaper, magazine, book, cereal box, etc. Use a marker or crayon to practice circling the letter.
- Go on a sound hunt. Pick a letter of the alphabet, tell what sound the letter makes, and find things around the house that start with that letter. Looking for a challenge? Locate objects that end with that letter's sound.
- Make a collage by cutting pictures out of magazines or catalogs that all start with the same letter.
- Practice finding words with 2 letters, 3 letters, 4 letters, etc.
- Play rhyming games with your child. Pick a word and see how many other words you can think of that rhyme with it. Tell your child 2 words and have them decide if the 2 words rhyme or not.
- Practice clapping words and counting how many syllables they have. Whose name has the most syllables in your family? The least?
- Encourage your child to draw a picture and label the things in it-or even try writing a sentence or short story about the picture. Instead of drawing a picture, you could also have your child use family photos as an inspiration for writing.
- Practice different kinds of writing. Have your child help write the grocery list or a card/letter to a relative.