

Rhymes and songs to share with your child

Young children love to be held, tickled, bounced and sung to. Try these simple but wonderful songs and rhymes as an introduction to language development. Don't worry if you can't sing on key –your baby won't mind. He or she will love just being with you.

Don't forget to check out *Karen's Corner* on our website for more rhymes and songs.

The Beehive



Here is the beehive. *(Hold up fist)*
Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Watch as they come out of the hive –
One, two, three, four, five. *(Extend each finger as you count)*
They're alive! BZZZ! *(Make buzzing sounds and tickle your child)*

Sleeping Bunnies

(Children lie down on the floor, pretending to sleep)

See the little bunnies, sleeping until noon.

Can we wake them with a merry tune?

Oh, so still ... are they ill?

Wake up sleeping bunnies, hop, hop, hop!

(Stand up and jump up and down until the end of the song when "stop" is sung)

Wake up sleeping bunnies, hop, hop, hop!

Wake up sleeping bunnies, hop and stop!



Round and Round the Garden

(Circle your child's palm with your finger while you sing the song)

Round and round the garden

Like a teddy bear.

(Walk your fingers up child's arm)

One step, two step

Tickle you under there.

Round and round the garden

In the wind and rain.

One step, two step,

Tickle you once again.



Reading begins at home!

Research shows that reading even one book a day can make an enormous impact on a child's readiness to learn to read. Exposure to books, songs and rhymes is essential for a young child's growing brain.

Here are 5 simple, but powerful, ways that parents and caregivers can help young children get ready for reading. You can make these practices part of your everyday activities to help young children learn early literacy skills.

Talking

Talking with young children helps them to develop pre-literacy skills. Encourage your child to retell stories which will help them understand story structure. Conversations with young children help them to express themselves, understand the world around them, and learn new vocabulary.

Singing

Singing slows down language and stresses the difference between syllables and intonation. This helps young children hear the smaller sounds in words which will later help them sound out words as they learn to read.

Reading

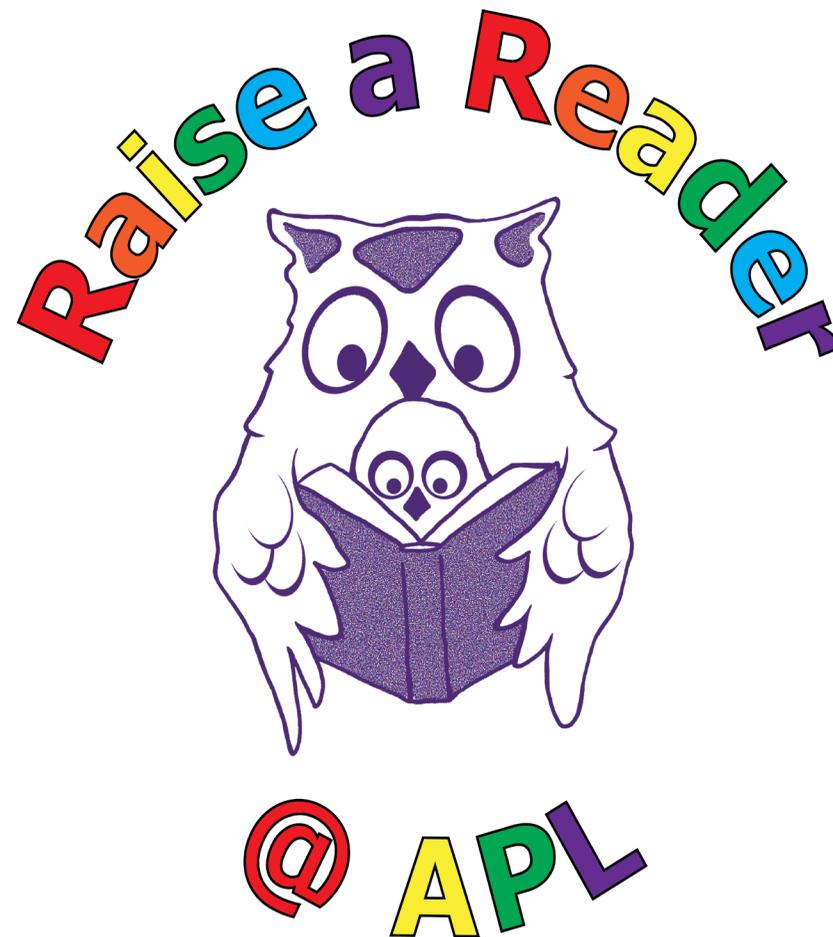
Reading to young children builds their vocabulary skills, allows them to develop letter awareness, and teaches them to enjoy reading and love books. It is a wonderful way to bond with your baby or young child.

Writing

Writing can be anything from drawing and scribbling to practising the shapes that make up the alphabet, and it is a great way to build fine motor skills. Children will grow to learn, and understand, that written words represent ideas, objects, places, and events.

Playing

Imaginative play is a key component of brain development and language acquisition. Play is not only fun, but is how children learn and understand new concepts, ideas and the world around them.



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