

Supporting Language & Literacy at 5 Years

Why Literacy Matters

Strong literacy skills will help your child live the life they want to live and reach for the dreams they have for themselves. Literacy skills will even help them decide what those dreams are. Children learn much more than facts and figures from books. They learn about the world and about themselves.

Every conversation, play session, tongue twister, and nursery rhyme you've had with your child has helped them learn important language and pre-literacy skills. This has built a strong foundation for all future reading. Don't stop now! You're still a very important part of them learning to read. Continue talking, reading, singing, and playing with them to build their skills and prepare them to make the switch from learning to read to reading to learn in the 4th grade.

If your child is learning a new language at school, they need to know and be reminded that their home language is important. You can do that by continuing to use their first language when you talk, read, sing, and play with them.

Partner with your child's teachers and schools to make sure your child continues to get the support they need at school and learn how you can reinforce skills at home.

Language & literacy skills at 5 years:

- uses longer, more complex, grammatically correct sentences
- determines or clarifies (with help) the meaning of words and phrases they don't know and words or phrases that have multiple meanings
- identifies new meanings for familiar words and applies them accurately
- explores (with help) word relationships and nuances in word meanings
- asks questions about feelings
- tells and re-tells stories that stay on topic
- asks and answers questions about unknown words in a text
- describes (with help) the relationship between illustrations and the story (how illustrations support the text)

There are lots of great books to explore at this age. Your child's teacher will likely have some wonderful suggestions. Here's a short list of some of our favorites:

- *Go Away, Big Green Monster* by Ed Emberley
- *The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!* by Mo Willems
- *The King of Kindergarten* by Derrick Barnes
- *Never Let a Unicorn Wear a Tutu!* by Diane Alber
- *How to Catch the Tooth Fairy* by Adam Wallace
- *It's Not Jack and the Beanstalk* by Josh Funk