

# Supporting Language & Literacy

## 8 Years: Comprehension & Reading to Learn

Literacy is more than just reading words on a page. It's about understanding the storyline, getting to know the characters, and predicting what will happen next. Your child is preparing to transition from learning to read *to* reading to learn. If your child is struggling with reading comprehension, they may need more help with building their vocabulary or practicing phonics skills.

### Tips & Activities



While your child reads aloud, help them process what they are reading by asking questions about different aspects of the story, e.g. *who, what, when, where, and why.*

Challenge your child to read and figure out the meaning of new words using skills like phonics, context clues, and pictures.



Explore a theme your child is studying in class in new ways, e.g. plants, planes, etc.



### Make Connections

When a book mentions a place that you've been with your child or activities you've done, talk about those memories. When children connect what they already know to what they read, it helps them focus.

## Common Language Milestones



- Knows & applies relationship between sounds & letters to decode grade-level words
- Begins to read with accuracy, appropriate speed, and expression to support
- Describes how characters respond to events in a story
- Speaks clearly and at an understandable speed
- Determines if books are fiction or non-fiction

# Early Detection *is* Intervention

Your child is always learning! As a caregiver, you have an amazing opportunity to guide them on a path to success.

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If you notice your child is having difficulties with a certain skill, isn't meeting multiple milestones, or if something just doesn't feel quite right, **talk with your child's healthcare provider.**

**Tips to set you and your child up for success when speaking with their healthcare provider:**

**Keep  
a journal**

Write down things that you notice your child doing, or not doing, that cause reason for concern.

**Use your  
resources**

Explore the websites listed below to find milestone checklists, a list of early warning signs, videos, and more.

**Trust  
your  
instincts**

You know your child best and you are their best advocate. Don't be afraid to speak up.

## Additional Resources

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[The Lexile Framework for Reading](#)

[Sesame Workshop](#)

[Pathways: Communication](#)

[Reading Rockets](#)