

# READING AND WRITING SKILLS BEGIN EARLY!

Being a strong reader and writer can help your child develop socially and academically.



**You are your child's FIRST TEACHER!**  
*Singing, playing, reading and talking are . . .*

Reading and writing starts with “pre-literacy skills” that you can start teaching your children right after they’re born.

**ALL TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES!**

*For ideas of WHAT and HOW you can teach your child, please see the tips on the back of this card.*



KS STATE PIRC provides parents with tools and information to create a healthy home learning environment. If you are interested in receiving more free resources to help your child learn, please contact us.



**KS STATE PIRC** PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

[www.kpirc.org](http://www.kpirc.org)

Toll-free: 1-866-711-6711 or Local 785-783-2975

A project of Kansas Families and Schools Together, Inc.



**Birth–6 months:** Read, sing and talk to your baby often. Remember that your baby’s eyesight is not fully developed but that their hearing is.

**7 months–1 year:** Read to your child often and talk about the pictures in the books. Make sure your child has books and remember that it is normal for babies to put books in their mouth! Encourage your baby to repeat sounds that you make with your mouth.

**1 year–2 years:** Be sure to play with your child–this is the time to repeat words and encourage your child to sing songs and learn the names of their body parts. Join a story group at your local library.

**2 years–3 years:** Visit the library often with your child and encourage them to look at different books and tell you about the pictures. Ask your child questions about the pictures they see. Talk with your child about the cover of the book, where the story begins, and what they think will happen next. Encourage your child to write and draw with crayons and copy shapes that you make.

**3 years–4 years:** Provide your child with opportunities to follow written directions with you. Encourage your child to attempt to write letters, make lists and talk about letter sounds. Encourage your child to write letters, make lists and talk about letter sounds. Talk about the letters in your child’s name and in simple words. Limit your child’s TV time and look into enrolling them in local preschools.

***For more information about early literacy workshops and resources, contact KS STATE PIRC (see info on reverse side).***