



Supporting Literacy

Resources:



[Early Literacy Development](#)



[Tip Sheet-talking with your baby](#)



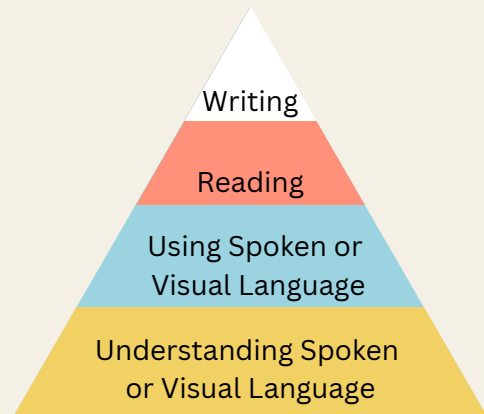
[The 5 big Reading Skills](#)



[Supporting Literacy Video](#)

Learning to read is built on the understanding and ability to use language.

The strategies below, will help build a strong foundation for learning literacy.



General Strategies:

- Communicate with children often. Learning language begins at birth, and is an important step in literacy development.
- Engage your child in activities that build fine motor skills, such as: stacking, stirring, lacing, coloring. They will later help with writing.
- Make a space for reading. Choose a comfortable place in your home where you can read regularly.
- Read every day. Find time to read with your child daily, this shows reading is important in your family.
- Make reading fun. Pick books that are silly or exciting. Better yet, have them pick the book. You can sing the words, or find other ways to enjoy the book together.
- Visit the library. Going to the library can get them excited about books, especially if they are able to get their own library card.
- Use play to build literacy skills, by using puzzles, mazes, crosswords, and search and find games.
- Lead by example. Show your child you have a love of reading, by reading and writing daily.

Visual strategies, for children who are Deaf/ Hard of Hearing (DHH):

- Ensure a clear line of sight between yourself and the child during interactions.
- Allow extra processing time, wait longer for a response, this may feel unnatural at first.
- Know that many DHH children require specific instruction to learn new words, as they are less likely to pick up the meaning of unfamiliar words in their environments.
- Promote a language rich environment by: singing, reading, playing games like I-Spy, describing activity around your child, and naming things they point to.
- Make pictures and printed words part of daily routines. Put labels on items around the house. If using a visual language, such as American Sign Language, check out "[Fingerspell Our Way to Reading](#)."
- Use visual cues and other communication modes when teaching letter sounds and written language.