

Reading Choice Board

How do you prepare your child to be a reader? Read to them. Read, read, read. You cannot read too much. By hearing stories, your child is learning language that they will use later when they read themselves, write, and when having conversations with others. In addition, they are understanding how stories go and are listening for meaning, which is what reading is all about. Enjoy this special time with your child.

Create a basket/stack of favorite books and reread them over and over.	Read a book with a repeating phrase or sentence and have your child fill in the repeated part. (Example: Very Hungry Caterpillar and repeated phrase of "but he was still hungry".	Have your child read a favorite storybook (one that you have read over and over) by telling the story in their own words and using the pictures.	Read a book to your child and then act it out with members of your family.	Enjoy a beautiful day and read a book outside.
Talk about the setting of your book (where does it take place?).	Read a book about shapes.	Read a book by your favorite author. If you are looking for a favorite, check out Mo Willems.	Snuggle up on the couch with your child and read a book, or two, or three!	Call a relative and tell them about a story you read.
Read with a favorite stuffed animal.	Read a non-fiction book (book about a real topic like animals). Before reading, discuss what you already know about the topic and after reading discuss what you learned.	Have someone special call and read you a book over Facetime.	Go to www.storylineonline.net and listen to a story.	Build a fort and read a book inside with a flashlight!
Read a fairy tale. If possible, find a variation of that fairy tale on youtube and listen and discuss how they are similar and different.	Read a book with someone in your family.	While reading a book, look at the character's face and think "how are they feeling and how would they sound?" and make your voice match the expression.	While reading, act out emotions by making the faces the characters are making, doing the motions of a character's actions, etc.	Enjoy a snack and read a book.
Read a book about numbers or count things in a book you are reading.	Create a favorite reading spot in your house. Read a book there.	Read an ABC book.	Draw a picture of a character from your book.	Make a pile of fiction books (storybooks) and non-fiction books (books about real topics).

Writing: Choice Board

The first piece of writing is an understanding that spoken language can be represented in written language and that marks on a page represent meaning. By encouraging your child to write (even when that writing is scribbles, drawings, letter-like symbols), you are jump starting their journey as a writer. The activities below encourage writing in whatever form that may be.

Retell a fun part of the day using first, next, and last. Practice orally telling the story over and over.	Have your child help you make a list for the store. Encourage him/her to use their own paper and scribble or pretend to write down what you need.	Staple a few pieces of paper together. Allow your child to draw a story. Encourage them to tell you the story.	Make a checklist for a routine in your house. (Ex. bedtime) Have your child draw a picture for each step. Check it off while they go through the routine.	Write a letter to a friend or family member and mail it to them or take a picture of the letter (or video of your child reading their letter) and text it to them.
Pretend play and include writing. (Example: play restaurant and write out orders or receipts, play mailman/mailwoman and write mail to deliver)	Have your child label different items around the house.	Have your child practice writing his/her name with only the first letter capital.	Have your child make a sign to hang on a window to brighten others' days.	Have your child help you make a list of their favorite animals. Encourage him/her to use their own paper and draw pictures of the animals.
Have your child draw an animal and draw three things they know about the animal like what it eats, where it lives, etc.	Make up your own version of your favorite story or come up with a different ending. Talk about how the picture would look different to fit your ending.	Let your child make up a joke and illustrate it.	Let your child make tickets. They could pretend it's for a movie, a play or that they're a police officer.	Have your child draw a picture of himself/herself to show how he/she is feeling.
Have your child make a card for someone.	Sit and draw with your child. Talk about simple shapes they can use to make something. Tell a story about your creation.	Use stickers to create a picture. Encourage your child to tell, write, or scribble a story about their picture.	Explore different markers, pens and pencils when coloring or writing.	Draw a picture of your family and label your family members.
Practice writing names of important people in your child's life.	Practice writing letters in paint or pudding.	Practice writing letters in shaving cream.	Make a little journal your child can draw in.	Point out writing that you use in the world (addresses, signs, symbols for restaurants).

Letters and Sounds: **Choice Board**

Hearing sounds and playing with sounds (without looking at a printed letter/s) is a key skill to getting children ready to read print. Activities below can be done while on a walk, driving in a car, sitting at the dinner table, etc. In addition, letter identification is an important skill for when children are ready to link sounds with the letters that represent those sounds. Activities are listed below that involve letter identification. Starting with letters just in the child's name can be a good starting point.

<p>Play I Spy with rhyming words. Ex. I see something in our living room that rhymes with bear.</p>	<p>Do a scavenger hunt for things that all start with the same sound.</p>	<p>Sing nursery rhymes like 5 Little Monkeys, Itsy Bitsy Spider, Mary Had a Little Lamb and sing the ABC song.</p>	<p>Come up with silly sentences with the same sound. (Example: Mickey Mouse in the morning with milk is magnificent.)</p>	<p>Have an adult say the sounds of a word and see if your child can guess the word (ie /d/ /o/ /g/ and they say "dog").</p>
<p>Build letters with things you find outside.</p>	<p>Play tic-tac-toe with different letters. Each time you write your letter, say the name or sound of the letter.</p>	<p>Find letters in your child's name in a book or on signs when you are driving.</p>	<p>Sort letters by the way they look: letters with curves (like the letters "c" and "s)", straight lines (like the letters "l" and "t"), slanted lines (like the letter "k").</p>	<p>Count the words or letters on a page.</p>
<p>Read a favorite rhyming book. Talk about the words that rhyme. Make up silly rhymes.</p>	<p>Clap, stomp or jump the number of syllables in words.</p>	<p>Sing a silly rhyming song: Apples and Bananas Willaby Wallaby Woo Down By the Bay</p>	<p>Talk like a turtle or a sloth, making each sound stretch.</p>	<p>Play a guessing game. Say the first sound in a word and then the rest of the word (p...ig), ask your child if they can guess the word.</p>
<p>Make a silly puppet out of a sock, box or bag. Have your puppet only eat things that start with a certain sound.</p>	<p>Play sound spotter: have your child lay and listen for all the sounds they hear around them.</p>	<p>Play "Can you guess what I'm thinking?" Give your child clues that have to do with rhyming, syllables, or sounds. Ex. I'm thinking of something that starts with "ssss" and rhymes with run. The sun!</p>	<p>Connect letters to important objects or people in your child's life. Ex. C is for car, M is for mom. Make an ABC book with these objects your child relates to.</p>	<p>Make a name puzzle, cutting lines between each letter. Mix your puzzle up and put it back together.</p>
<p>Use a big paint brush and water. Paint letters on the driveway.</p>	<p>When singing a song your child loves, leave off a word at the end of a phrase and have them fill it in.</p>	<p>When singing a song or reading a well known book, change a word and see if your child notices. Make it silly.</p>	<p>Find different ways to sort letters: letters found in your name or not in your name, capital or lowercase, in a family member's name or not.</p>	<p>Make a matching game with simple words and pictures or letters. (Ex. Family members pictures and their names, Upper and lowercase letters)</p>

Math: Choice Board

Early numeracy skills include recognizing the quantity of small groups of objects without counting (ex. seeing the three dots on a dice and saying 3 without counting the 3 dots), recognizing magnitude and knowing groups of objects are smaller or larger than others, and counting orally and with objects, and knowing the last number named states the quantity of a set. Activities below support these early numeracy skills plus some other important math skills incoming Kindergarten students can practice and have fun with over the summer.

Play the game "Compare" with a deck of cards by flipping over two cards and comparing the quantity. The person with the larger quantity wins that round.	Write the numbers 0-10 outside with chalk.	Play Go Fish with a deck of cards. You can pick out certain numbers to focus on. This will help your child to work on identifying numbers.	Roll a dice and quickly name the number. Roll again and see how fast you can be at naming the numbers.	Get a deck of cards and pull out one of each number. Put them in order.
Make a tower of blocks as high as you can! Now count the blocks. How many did you use?	Go on a scavenger hunt and collect items (ex. rocks, pinecones, leaves, etc.). Sort the items by object and then count how many of each item was collected.	Roll a dice or number cube and select an action (ex. jumping jacks, spin in a circle, hop on one foot) and then do that action the amount the dice says.	Bounce a balloon back and forth with a partner or group and count the number of times the balloon is hit before it falls to the ground. Rename the last number counted to identify the final number.	Pour a small bowl of cereal with different colors (ex. fruit loops). Sort the cereal by color, count the groups, and then name the color that has the smallest amount and greatest amount.
Pick a shape (circle, square, rectangle) and go on a shape hunt. Find this shape throughout your house.	Build shapes with things you have at home like play-doh, sticks, toothpicks, etc.	Make an obstacle course in your house or with chalk and objects on the sidewalk. Use words like under, over, above and next to when going through the course.	Collect sticks, rocks or flowers on a walk. Put the objects in order from tallest to shortest.	Bake together. Measure and count ingredients.
Play a board game that works on counting spaces or using a dice.	Fill a bag with any objects (legos, beads, cereal, etc.). Reach in and get one handful. Reach in and get a second handful. Count each group. Which has more?	Fill a bag with any objects. Reach in and get a handful. Count the objects. How many do you have? Can you draw what you have?	Go on a walk and focus on something to count (doors, windows, mailboxes, etc.). How many did you count?	Make a set of a given number. (Example: Put 5 crayons on the table. Place 3 magnets back on the fridge. Name the set number once the set is created.)
Make a counting book. Draw a quantity or glue a quantity on the page and write the digit that represents the quantity. Don't forget the quantity of zero.	Line up your stuffed animals or toys from smallest to tallest.	Create a pattern with toys, food, or other home objects (ex. fork, spoon, knife, fork, spoon, knife).	Help set the table and count the objects as you place them on the table.	Use chalk and make a hopscotch board and count as you hop.

Fine Motor/Gross Motor: **Choice Board**

Fine motor skills are finger and hand skills such as writing, cutting, buttoning a button, zipping a jacket, etc. These skills require the use of small muscles in the hand, fingers, and thumb. Developing these muscles through fun activities like the ones listed below will allow your child to have strong muscles for the writing, cutting, etc. they will be doing in school. Gross motor skills are whole body skills like walking, running, throwing a ball, etc. These skills involve whole body movement and core strength. Developing these skills through the fun activities listed below will allow your child to perform daily movements like sitting at the carpet, controlling the body when walking in the halls, etc.

Have your child do animal walks! Crab, Bear, Snake slither, Penguin waddle, Frog Hop, etc.	Play with Play-Doh! Your child can even practice their cutting skills by cutting the play-doh with scissors.	Have your child string pipe cleaners or straws through a colander.	Do wheelbarrow walks! Have your child place his hands on the floor while you hold his feet. See how far he can walk on his hands.	Use a rolling pin! Have your child roll it on play-doh, bubble wrap, or even the floor. The grasping, pushing, and rolling help strengthen hands.
Have your child tear paper into tiny pieces! This is a great way to build hand strength.	Have your child play with sponges! When they wring out the sponges. It helps their hand muscles.	Write letters with chalk on the sidewalk, driveway or on fences. Give your child a spray bottle and have them spray water on a letter you call out.	Have your child string beads onto pipe cleaners or noodles onto yarn.	Draw a hopscotch with chalk and practice jumping from 2 feet to 1 foot.
Do puddle jumps: place paper on the ground and do "frog jumps" over the "puddles".	Play with stickers. Your child can make a sticker book.	Ice skate with paper plates. Put a paper plate under each foot. Slide around and ice skate around the house.	Practice with scissors. Make sure the scissors are held correctly. Your child can snip paper and can practice cutting on a line.	Go on a walk with someone special.
Blow bubbles. Chase the bubbles, stomp on the bubbles, pop them with a "crab" pincer grasp.	Move like transportation. Fly like a plane, chug like a train, race like a racecar. Move fast or slow.	Build something with Legos. Pushing Legos together helps build hand strength.	Lay on the floor with a stuffed animal on your tummy. Try to make the animal go up and down with your breath.	Tape a piece of paper to the fridge and draw with crayons on the vertical surface.
Sensory Play: Fill a small container with sensory material such as cornmeal, rice, cereal. Put items in the material and let your child try to get them out with tongs.	Have a race. Race like different animals.	Throw different sized balls or crumpled up paper back and forth.	Have a dance party. Play your favorite music and dance to the beat.	Go outside and kick a ball or play catch.

Social Emotional: **Choice Board**

Social emotional development includes a child's experience with expression, management of emotions, self-regulation, and the ability to establish positive relationships with others. This development is crucial to a child's ability to learn academic content and these skills are utilized throughout the day in a school setting. Have a fun, yet relaxing, time developing these skills with your child by engaging in the activities below.

Use a growth mindset which can sound like: "Mistakes help me grow." "I can learn something new." "I just don't know how YET."	Organize an area of the house together.	Help clean up your toys.	Play a favorite sport.	Make a card for a neighbor.
Take 10 deep breaths.	Build something or do a puzzle.	Create a calm down spot at home. A quiet area with books, fidgets, music, etc), If you are feeling big feelings, use this area to take a calm break.	Listen to relaxing music.	Practice mindful coloring.
Forgive someone for a mistake.	If I have a problem, is it a little problem or big problem? My reaction can match the size of my problem.	Go on a mindful walk outside.	Practice self control (stop and think). Play Simon Says or Red Light/Green Light.	Practice yoga moves.
Think of 3 things you are grateful for.	Give a kind complement.	Name your feeling.	Offer to help someone out.	Push against a wall 3 times and then relax.
Take a bath.	Sing a favorite song.	If I feel angry, I can stop, name the feelings I have and calm down.	Play a board game.	Take a nap.