



**READY, SET, READ!**

## **Foundations of Literacy**

### **Everyday Opportunities to Read**

With some creativity, you can find time to read to your kids throughout the day. The more you can show them that words have meaning, the sooner they will read on their own!

#### **Read everything!**

- Read road signs and billboards as you drive, “This street sign says Venice Boulevard! Now we’ll turn right.” or “Look, there’s a billboard for the Paw Patrol movie!”
- Spot letters and words as you drive through the city. “Who can find a B?” “Do you see a Z on the sign?”
- Read your grocery list together and ask for help finding the items.
- Read recipes aloud to younger kids, ask older kids to help read the recipe with you.
- Read the menu at the restaurant, “Do you want chicken? Here it is on the menu!”
- Read notices from school out loud and talk about them.
- Read food labels out loud - even the back of the cereal box!
- Read words and ask children to come up with a word that rhymes. “I see the word *box*. What rhymes with *box*?”
- Find words that start with the same letter as the child’s name

#### **Make books and reading easily available**

- Ask family members to send letters, texts, and emails to your child and read them together. Work together to write a response.
- Ask your child to read a book to you while you clean. Younger kids can go through the book and tell you about the pictures.
- Become a reader yourself! Children who see their parents read (whether magazines, books, or anything else) are more likely to read.
- Go to the library - not just to get books! Most libraries have events and story time. This shows your child that books are important and fun.
- Carry books in your diaper bag, keep them in your car, etc.



## Foundations of Literacy

### Open-Ended Questions

Questions that can be answered in many ways are called open-ended questions. This way of asking questions stimulates use of language and helps children build vocabulary. You can tell a question is open-ended if it *cannot* be answered with a yes or a no. Below are examples of open-ended questions.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you think of that?</li><li>• What do you like about this?</li><li>• What don't you like about this?</li><li>• What does this make you think of?</li><li>• In what ways are these different? The same?</li><li>• What materials did you use?</li><li>• What would happen if?</li><li>• What might you try instead?</li><li>• Tell me about your _____.</li><li>• What does it look like?</li><li>• What does it remind you of?</li><li>• What does it feel like?</li><li>• Tell me what happened.</li><li>• Is one object longer/shorter than the other?</li><li>• How will you do it next time?</li><li>• What do you like best about it?</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What comes after this step?</li><li>• What do you call the things you are using?</li><li>• Tell me what it looks like.</li><li>• How are you going to do that?</li><li>• What do you feel, see, hear, taste, smell?</li><li>• What will you do next after you finish that?</li><li>• Tell me why you chose that one.</li><li>• Is there anything else you could do/use?</li><li>• Why do you think that?</li><li>• How do you know?</li><li>• What are some different things you could do?</li><li>• What is it made of?</li><li>• Show me what you could do with it.</li></ul> |
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Work with a partner to rewrite the following questions as open-ended.

Yes or No	Open-Ended
Did you have a good day?	
Do you like the food?	
Are you done with your homework?	
Did you already read this book?	