

Getting Ready to Read

- Learn the names of the letters of the alphabet.
- Point out letters to your child. For example: “**That’s M. M is the first letter in your name.**”
- Ask your child to find letters in books, magazines, and other print. For example: “**Find all of the e’s on this page.**”
- Look at alphabet books. Name the pictures and letters.
- Put magnetic letters on your refrigerator. Ask your child to name the letters as he plays with them.
- It is important for your child to not only learn the alphabet but to be able to recognize the letters quickly. (Use the attached alphabet chart to make flash cards.)

Other Activities

- Read aloud to your child every day. Talk about what is happening in the story. Ask questions like “What do you think is going to happen next?”
- Read favorite books again and again. Children love hearing the same stories again. It helps them learn to read by hearing familiar words and also increases vocabulary.
- Take your child to the library.
- Read aloud road signs, store signs, and billboards. Point out things as you drive.
- Listen carefully as your child talks to you. Answer questions and take time to explain things. Be positive.

How to get your child ready for Kindergarten



Rock Ridge Elementary

Getting Started

- Help your child hear words that rhyme. For example: **moose, goose, and caboose.**
- Sing or listen to songs with rhyming words. For example: *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.*
- Read books with rhyming words. For example: **Dr. Seuss books.**
- Say nursery rhymes. For example: *Hickory, Dickory Dock.*
- Play rhyming games. Say a nursery rhyme and leave out the rhyming word. For example: “**Mary had a little lamb; its fleece was white as snow. Everywhere that Mary went; her lamb was sure to _____.**”

- Play a syllable clapping game with your child. Name some common objects around the house and have your child clap the number of syllables in the word. For example: **pencil (two claps), toothbrush (two claps), and television (four claps).**
- See if your child can guess a word after you say each syllable slowly. Allow about a second between syllables. For example: **cow ----- boy (cowboy), play ---- ground (playground), lit ----tle (little).**
- Help your child hear the first sound in words and notice when different words start with the same sound. For example: “**boat**” and “**book**” **start with the same sound.**

Learning New Words

- Build your child’s vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example: “**Look at that airplane! Those are the wings on the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?**”
- Talk about what words mean. For example: “**Enormous means very big. An elephant is enormous.**”
- Take your child to new places and introduce him to new experiences. Talk to your child about those new, interesting, and unusual things that you see and do. For example: “**That’s a zebra. The zebra has black and white stripes and lives at the zoo.**”