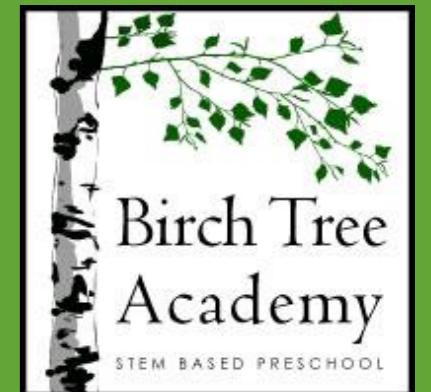


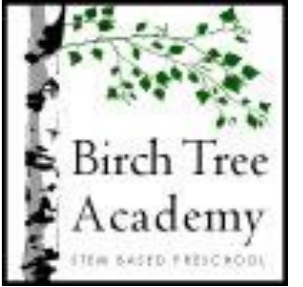


# Birch Tree Academy Parent Education

November 2021

[www.BirchTreeAcademy.com](http://www.BirchTreeAcademy.com)





# Agenda

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What is early literacy?

Why reading is important

How children learn to read

Ideas for each age group

Suggested Books



# What is Early Literacy?

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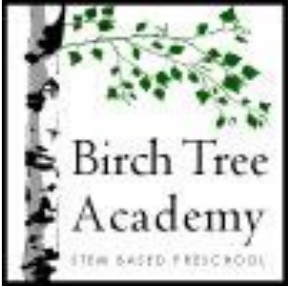
Early Literacy is the basic knowledge of reading and writing a child develops before they learn to read and write.

Literacy development begins at birth

- Closely linked with a child's earliest experiences with books and stories.

Babies learn language through the experience of being read to or spoken to

- Primarily from their parents
- These experiences also serve to associate reading with parent affection, positive attention, and approval.



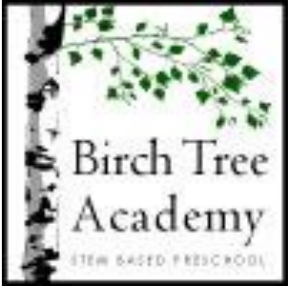
# Why Reading to Your Child is Important

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90% of a child's brain development occurs by age 5.

Children who are read to, sung to, and talked to from an early age have an advantage

- Large vocabularies
- Excellent reading skills
- Higher rates of academic success



# Why Reading to Your Child is Important (Cont.)

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A study of 3 - 5 year old children that had been read to at least three times per week found them to be:

- Two times more likely to recognize all letters.
- Two times more likely to have word sight recognition.
- Two times more likely to understand words in context.

Research indicates that children who are struggling readers in 1st Grade are 88% more likely to struggle with reading in 4th Grade.



# How Children Learn to Read

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Here are six literacy skills needed for reading

1. **Vocabulary:** Children can hear and understand words long before they can read or write them.
2. **Narrative Skills:** Being able to describe events and retell stories.
3. **Letter Awareness:** Recognizing letters and the sounds they represent.
4. **Phonological Awareness:** Hearing differences between sounds.
5. **Print Awareness:** Recognizing the different parts of a book, and how to take care of them.
6. **Print Motivation:** The notion that reading is important and fun!

# Why Rhymes are Important

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Rhyming is a great way to help babies hear and identify different sounds in words. And when children start learning to read, rhyming helps them learn the connection between the sound of a word and how it's written.

What you can do

- Play games that involve rhyming. Rhyming games help children appreciate beginning, middle and ending sounds – for example, 'cat, pat and mat'. You can play them at any time – in the car, while shopping or at the dinner table.
- Play games that involve the sound and rhythm of words. You could try tongue twisters like 'She sells seashells by the



# Things to Keep in Mind

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**Sight Words:** Sight words are foundational words that help children to build their vocabulary over time.

**Books That Relate:** Choosing books that are relatable to your child in some way, or that are on a topic of interest is a great way to make reading a more appealing activity.

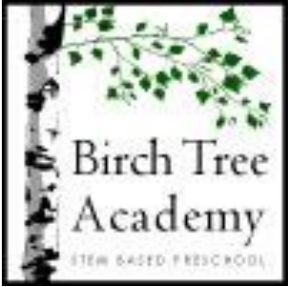
**Make It A Memorable Experience:** Remember that there is nothing more precious than the quality time you share with your child.

- The goal should be to make this a fun and interactive experience
- You and your child can have fond memories of to look back on

**Exercise caution with electronic reading devices**

- They can be a distraction for some children





# Get Your Home Literacy- Ready

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- Keep a table surface stocked with crayons, pencils and paper for your child to practice drawing, pretending to write, and eventually writing
- Have at least 20-30 books that are age appropriate for your child.
- Have at least 5 rhyming books that are appropriate for your child.
- Keep a few books in your car for times you are waiting or driving
- Teach your child a new word at least 4 times per week
- Keep your books and magazines around the house so your child sees you reading and can look through grown up reading material
- Limit screen time for yourself and your child!

# Ideas for Babies and Toddlers

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## Talk to Them

- The most important thing we can do to nurture the learning of our little ones is to talk with them
- Use varied vocabulary and ask questions, even if you answer yourself!

## Read, Read, Read

- Incorporate reading at wake-up time and bedtime
- Sing during bath time
- Read while you wait....and any other time you can!

Connection: Reading aloud helps us to connect and bond with our littlest ones



# Ideas for Toddlers (Age 2+)



## Listening for Letters and Sounds

- Read, sing, or say nursery rhymes
- Emphasize rhyming words as well as words that you like to hear and say.

## Use rhyming books and poems

- Read books and poems with rhyming words such as those by Dr. Seuss
- Allow your child the opportunity to read the rhyming words with you.

## Spot the starting sounds

- Point out a word's beginning sound. Compare it with another word with the same beginning sound.
- Example: "Tomatoes and tacos have the same beginning letter. Can you hear the "t" in tomatoes and tacos?"

## Repetition

- Read the same books over and over so your child becomes familiar with the book and can fill in the words

# Ideas for Preschoolers (Age 3+)

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## Read, Read, Read

- Read as much as possible!
- Set aside at least 5-10min (preferably 30 min) a day to read together
- Run your finger along every word as you read. Reading and writing left to right, and top to bottom, doesn't come naturally to all young children. Running your finger under each word as you read helps children develop a sense of orientation.
- Check for comprehension by asking open ended questions ("Why did the rabbit run away?")

## Make a game of it

- Play letter scavenger hunt or "I Spy"
- Choose a "letter of the day" to search for
- Label some of your belongings at home.
- Search for the first letter of your child's name.

## Read Signs

- Read Stop signs and other common traffic signs aloud while driving

# Ideas for Pre-K (Age 4+)



## Storytime

- Read together everyday and gradually increase story time to 45min. a day.
- Point out punctuation marks and what they mean.

## Write Lists

- Write shopping, to-do, and other types of lists together
- Give your child their own paper and pencil so that as you write your list, they can “write” theirs too.

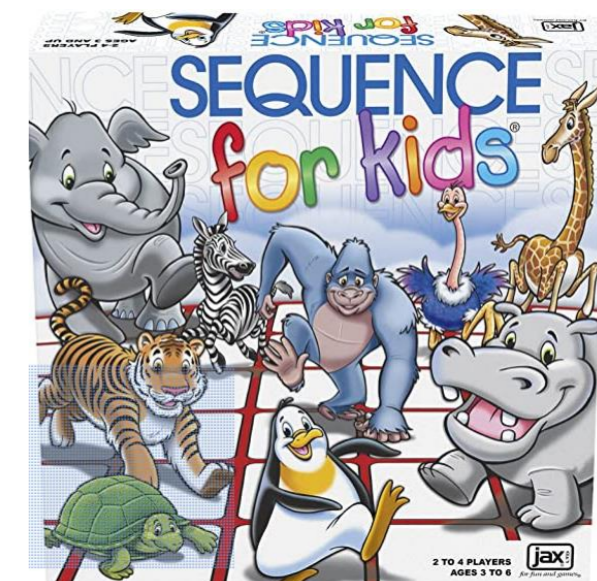
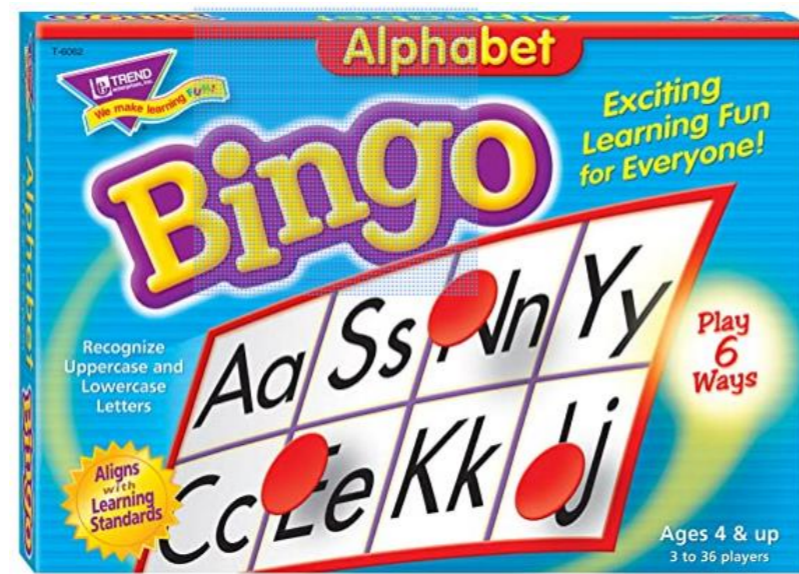
## Write Notes

- Write notes to your child such as “I love you” or “let’s play”
- They can “write” back to you using words or pictures

## Make Words

- Use magnetic letters to spell out sight words on a magnetic surface such as your refrigerator
- Have your child repeat the process by spelling out the words themselves

# Game Ideas for Ages 3+



“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”

*—Joseph Addison*



# That's it, get reading!

Birch Tree Academy is a STEM based bilingual preschool with heart. We're located in the greater Seattle area. Learn more at [www.BirchTreeAcademy.com](http://www.BirchTreeAcademy.com).

Questions? Contact us at [info@birchtreeacademy.com](mailto:info@birchtreeacademy.com).