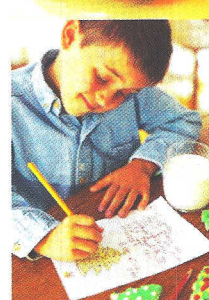
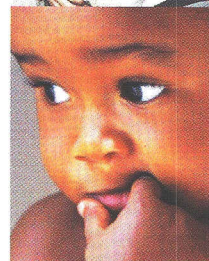


READING *and* WRITING SKILLS

Begin EARLY!

Being a strong reader and writer can help your child develop socially and academically.



Birth–6 months: Read, sing and talk to your baby often. Remember that your baby’s eyesight is not fully developed but that their hearing is.

7 months–1 year: Read to your child often and talk about the pictures in the books. Make sure your child has books and remember that it is normal for babies to put books in their mouth! Encourage your baby to repeat sounds that you make with your mouth.

1 year–2 years: Be sure to play with your child—this is the time to repeat words and encourage your child to sing songs and learn the names of their body parts. Remember that your child needs opportunities to practice talking without a pacifier. Join a story group at your local library.

2 years–3 years: Visit the library often with your child and encourage them to look at different books and tell you about the pictures. Ask your child questions about the pictures they see. Talk with your child about the cover of the book, where the story begins, and what they think will happen next. Encourage your child to write and draw with crayons and copy shapes that you make.

3 years–4 years: Provide your child with opportunities to follow written directions. Encourage your child to write letters, make lists and talk about letter sounds. Talk about the letters in your child’s name and in simple words. Limit your child’s TV time and look into enrolling them in local preschools.

Reading and writing starts with “pre-literacy skills” that you can start teaching your children right after they’re born.

For ideas of WHAT and HOW you can teach your child, please see the tips on the back of this card.

You are your child’s **FIRST TEACHER!**

Singing, playing, reading and talking are . . .

ALL TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES!

NH State PIRC provides parents with tools and information to create a healthy home learning environment. If you are interested in a **FREE book** for your child and tips to help your child learn, please contact us.



NH STATE PIRC PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

www.nhpirc.org

Toll-free: (800) 947-7005 or Helpline (866) NH-PIRC

A project of the Parent Information Center
PARENT INFORMATION Center
Guiding & Encouraging Families

For more information about early literacy workshops and resources, contact NH STATE PIRC (see info on reverse side).