

LITERACY FOR TODDLERS



Early language and literacy skills are learned best through everyday moments with your child—reading books, talking, laughing, and playing together.



I SPY

Play games like 'I spy' using colors. This can be lots of fun, especially for older toddlers. For example, "I spy with my little eye, something that's green. What's something green I might be looking at?" *1.5 OT.C Speaking and Listening*



PRACTICE

Using a DIY salt tray is a fun way for toddlers to practice their early writing skills. Fill a tray with salt and provide an instrument for your child to make marks in the salt with. A salt tray engages the senses and is a way to learn letters, numbers and to spell their name. *1.4 OT.R Writing*



READING

Encourage your child to take the lead with reading — for example, 'Where do we start from? Where is the front of the book? What is happening in the illustrations? Every so often, stop reading and ask your child what she thinks will happen next. *1.3 OT.C Reading Literature*



SING TOGETHER

Sing nursery rhymes with your child. Nursery rhymes teach your child language, rhyme, repetition, and rhythm. You could try *Baa baa black sheep*, *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, or the *Alphabet Song*.

1.1 YT.C Foundational Skills—Phonological Awareness

PENNSYLVANIA LEARNING STANDARDS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD: TODDLER

The Department of Education and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning use a Standards Aligned System. The Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood are designed to support learning. The key areas explored in these activities are Print Concepts, Reading Literature, Writing, and Speaking and Listening.

1.1 LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT — Print Concepts

Big Idea: Emerging reading involves the use of pictures and symbols to gain information and derive meaning.

- 1.1 Y.T.C Identify and imitate familiar sounds in the environment.

1.3 READING LITERATURE

Big Idea: Effective readers use appropriate strategies to construct meaning. Critical thinkers actively and skillfully interpret, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information. An expanded vocabulary enhances one's ability to express ideas and information.

- 1.3 O.T.C Recognize pictures of familiar characters in a book.

1.4 WRITING

Big Idea: Audience and purpose influence a writer's choice of organizational pattern, language, and literacy techniques. Effective research requires the use of varied resources to gain or expand knowledge.

- 1.4 O.T.R Intentionally make marks with writing and drawing tools.

1.5 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Big Idea: Active listeners make meaning from what they hear by questioning, reflecting, responding, and evaluating. Effective speakers prepare and communicate messages to address the audience and purpose.

- 1.5 O.T.C Respond to questions, comments, or directions.