


## Activities

This section describes more activities to help your child learn to read. Most of the activities are designed to be multi-sensory, allowing your child to see words and hear them pronounced at the same time. Always remember to make learning fun!

- **Write out words frequently**, based on your child's interests. For example, if your child is looking at his hand, you could print the word "hand" in lowercase letters. Point to the word as you say it, then show your child your hand. You may want to use a larger surface to print simple phrases that combine words your child already knows with new words.
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- A photograph of a hand with the word "hand" written in a speech bubble below it. The hand is shown from the palm side, with fingers spread. The word "hand" is written in a simple, lowercase font inside a white speech bubble with a black outline. The entire image is enclosed in a green rounded rectangular border.
- **Point to each word as you say it** when you're reading books that have only a few words per page.
  - **Encourage your child to point to each word** as you read to her.
  - **Review the DVDs, books, and sliding cards** based on your child's reading ability and interest. Many children continue to learn more phonetic patterns by watching the DVDs, especially from the Volume 5 DVD. Others may learn to spell words by reviewing the DVDs.
  - **Encourage your child to read quickly.** One game that you can play is better when you have two copies of the same book. Choose books that are not too difficult for your child. See who can silently read the book faster—you or your child. First, you may need to teach your

child to read a book without saying the words, but many children learn this without specifically being taught. Toddlers typically get faster after just a few tries. The goal is for their “natural” or “normal” speed to be fast. Reading quickly is very important, because it allows your child to have more time for other things in life.

## Word Games

- Play matching games.** Have your child match two- or three-word phrases with the correct objects. For example, write out “red shirt,” “blue shirt,” “green shirt,” “red shorts,” “blue shorts,” “green shorts,” “red pants,” “blue pants,” and “green pants” on separate word cards. You’ll need to have objects or pictures to match each phrase. Place the word cards and objects on the floor randomly, and have your child match them. Start with only two or three words, then expand as your child’s skills improve. Look around the room for examples of words to make it easier to explain the meanings of the words.



- To teach phonics, write out new or existing words, and point to the words as you say them.** Sometimes, point only to the first letter of the word and emphasize that sound. For “b,” print the letter “b” and make the “b” sound. Then, quickly print the word “book” and say “book.” Add the word “bib” and say “bib.” At first, use at least four or five words that have the same letter and corresponding sound.

- **Write out several words from the same phonetic family.** For example, write down “hat,” “cat,” “sat,” “that,” “mat,” “at,” and “flat,” then read each word aloud as you point to it. After that, write out the word “bat,” and ask your child to try reading that word. Repeat this game with several other word families, including the “it” family (bit, fit, hit, sit, etc.), the “an” family (ban, fan, ran, pan, can, etc.), and so forth.



- **Write out two words that your child has never seen,** such as “laptop” and “yesterday.” Ask your child, “Which word do you think says ‘yesterday?’” If your child points to the word “laptop” say, “This is the word ‘laptop’ (while pointing to the word) and this says ‘yesterday’” (while directing the child’s attention to the appropriate word). Repeat this several times with different words. Choose the words you want to use ahead of time. Try looking around the room for examples of words so that you can show your child what the words mean as well. Remember, all these games should be fun. Try making combinations of long words and short words while playing this game with children who are just beginning to recognize words.

## ● See How Your Child Is Progressing:

- **Print out a word of at least five letters that your child has never seen before and turn that word upside-down.** Pay attention to what your child does. Your child may demonstrate that he or she has learned more than individual words, but also many language patterns by this time. If this is the case, your child will find some way to show you that the word is upside-down, either by turning her head upside-

down to try reading it or by turning the word right-side-up. Some children will also give a look of surprise like they haven't seen a word like this before. **Please do not hold words upside-down on a regular basis.** This was added so that parents can see that the child has already started to learn patterns of the written language.

- **Print out a nonsense word**, such as “dit” and ask your child to try reading the word. Many babies and toddlers will be able to read the word phonetically. If this is the case, then you'll know that your child has already figured out many phonetic patterns. Your child will figure out other phonemes by learning to read more individual words and generalizing patterns from those words, therefore teaching your child new words will also help with phonics. Some children love playing games with nonsense words such as “fubby” and “lubby.” We suggest using rhyming words that have many of the same letters, which will help teach your child more phonics. If your child doesn't know how to read the word, then say something like, “This says ‘dit’—‘dit’ is a nonsense word, not a real word.” You could also say, “Dit is a silly word,” or a similar phrase that comes naturally for you, as long as it is accurate.

*When you and your child have fun playing these games, your child has a greater chance to keep her natural desire to learn long into life. Your child may also develop a love of playing games. There are many games that you can create that are similar to the games listed here. Be creative and enjoy the bonding experience!*