

your child was born ready to learn!

The Ready At Five Partnership

Ready At Five is a statewide partnership dedicated to ensuring that all Maryland children, birth through five, enter school ready to learn.

For information, call 410.727.6290

website ready at five.org

The Maryland Public Libraries

Maryland Public Librarians are committed to providing the children of Maryland with language interactions from birth so that they start school ready to learn to read.

At every age your child is learning from each activity he or she does. Your baby learns every moment. When she responds to your voice, grabs the mobile over her crib, or squeals to get your attention, she's learning about her world.

Your toddler is learning when he stacks blocks and knocks them down, pretends to read a book, or learns a song. Your preschool youngster is learning, too – when you read aloud to her, let her help with simple chores like sorting socks, and when she plays and shares with other children.

Research findings have concluded that learning to read is a process that begins with birth. Children must be exposed to the sounds of our language and to the structure of letters, words and books in order for them to be ready to learn to read.

It is never too early to introduce books to your baby. When you read to your child, her brain cells are turned on and begin to make connections. As she looks at the picture on the page and hears the words you are reading, her brain is hard at work, creating and strengthening brain connections.

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It is never too early!
read with your child

When to share books

Set aside a special time each day, such as nap time, bedtime or after meals.

Share books when you and your child are in a relaxed mood. Limit sharing time if your child becomes fussy or restless.

Take advantage of “waiting times,” always have a book handy to share on trips, at the doctor’s office, in traffic jams, in the grocery store line.

How to share books

Snuggle up comfortably, with your child in your lap or next to you.

Have your child select books and reread your child’s favorite whenever asked. Hold the book so your child can see the pages clearly.

Create a special place in your home where your child can safely reach and use books and writing materials.

As you read with your child, read with expression in your voice, lightly run your fingers under the words, have the child point out objects, talk about the pictures, repeat common words, talk about what you have read and let your child interrupt with comments.

At your public library

Your local library has all the materials you need and they are free! Make visiting the library a regular family habit – it can become one of your most cherished family activities.

A memorable and lasting gift is a library card – take your child to get one!