

Literacy Tips for Parents: Learning to Read With Your Kindergartener

- Read and talk with your child each day. Use books, magazines and newspapers to help you. Remember to plan visits to the public library. Ask your child what their teacher talked about at school and which friends your child played with?
- Help your child learn letters and sounds by pointing out different letters to them. Books, games, puzzles and toys can help you. Example: Alphabet puzzles, Candyland (game), *No David!* by David Shannon (book). A book in the bathroom is a great idea!
- Encourage your child to write his or her name and make letters. Having all of the letters of the alphabet for your child to look at will help them. Play-dough is a fun way to make letters. A chalkboard or whiteboard can be used to encourage your child to write letters.
- Ask your child to read to you and encourage them to identify letters and common words like: *the, to, as, in, out, no, and*. Encourage your child to make up their own story using picture books like *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs. Making a tent to read in using sheets or blankets or reading in funny places can be fun! Try reading under the table, on the stairs, and outside on the grass.
- Play word and letter sound games with your child. Take turns with words that begin with a letter you choose or ask your child to say a word that sounds like a word you say. Example: (You say) *A is for alligator, which word can you think of that starts with A?* or (You say) *May, day, lay* and then encourage your child to think of more words that rhyme. (It is fun to make silly words like *vay*)
- Remember that your little kindergartner may be less interested in hugs but still wants and needs your love. Be sure to hug your child and let them know how special they are to you.

