



# Wings

A Weekly Newsletter for Families

August: Week 2  
Reading/Literacy

“Let us remember:  
One book, one pen, one child,  
and one teacher can change  
the world.” –  
Malala Yousafzai

## Literacy Skills Start Kids on the Right Path

Did you know that the first three years of schooling are a critical time to learn basic skills kids need to tackle advanced curriculum? Yet, 65% of fourth graders read at or below the basic level. As school work advances, these children fall behind.

Research shows that there are specific skills and abilities of children from birth through 5 years old that predict later reading outcomes. They are:

- Oral language – listening comprehension and oral language vocabulary. Build your child’s oral language by giving them chances to interact with adults, listen, respond to stories, answer questions and describe events.
- Alphabetic code – knowledge of the alphabet, the ability to tell apart sounds in words and invented spelling. Expose your child to the alphabet in books, toys like blocks and attempts to write.
- Print knowledge/concepts – having an awareness and understanding of things like where to start reading a book or a page and in what direction to read. Reading aloud to your child – whether it’s a book, street signs or labels at the grocery store – is one way to help them gain this knowledge.



### •• INFANT Inspiration

Don’t Let Your Baby Overheat –

- Dress them in loose-fitting, lightweight clothes made of natural fiber like cotton
- Never leave your baby in a hot room or a parked car
- Use a lightweight nylon carrier
- Don’t let your baby get dehydrated – replace lost liquids with extra formula or more frequent nursing
- Stay inside during the hottest part of the day

### •• TODDLER Tales

Support Budding Writing Skills

In the toddler years, children start grasping writing tools like crayons and applying the right amount of pressure to them, and holding paper so it doesn’t move. These skills are stepping stones to writing.

Keep crayons, markers, chalk and paper on hand so kids can draw and scribble.

Call attention to the letters in your toddler’s name and point out the letters on signs, in books and on product labels.

Be encouraging! Respond positively to your child’s attempts at drawing and writing. Display your toddler’s work to instill a sense of pride in them.

### •• PRESCHOOL Power

Preschool Countdown

Last week, Wings gave you some ways to overcome jitters about the first day of preschool. During the two weeks before preschool starts:

- Buy a backpack together with your child. If possible, let your child choose it.
- Label EVERYTHING in permanent marker – backpack, clothes, shoes, blanket and toys they take to school.
- Talk to your preschool about medicines your child takes. You’ll need to know the rules and fill out forms so your child can take medications at school.
- Talk to your child about the morning and afternoon routine so they understand that they’ll be safe and cared for.
- Make sure your child meets caregivers who will help them before or after school.
- Start using your child’s school bedtime.

