



Wings

A Weekly Newsletter for Families

September: Week 2
Reading/Literacy

“What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.” – Mother Teresa

Early Childhood Clues to Dyslexia

Did you know that a speaking problem is the first clue that a child might have a reading problem like dyslexia?

The very first clue to a language (and reading) problem may be delayed language. Once a child starts to speak, look for the following issues in a preschooler:

- Trouble learning common nursery rhymes like “Jack and Jill” and “Humpty Dumpty”
- A lack of appreciation of rhymes
- Mispronounced words and persistent baby talk
- A hard time learning and remembering names of letters
- Failure to know the letters in their own name

If you notice any of these issues with your preschooler, please ask your pediatrician to suggest options for getting your child tested for reading and language disorders.



•• INFANT Inspiration

Hearing Is a Big Part of Literacy

Normal hearing is needed to understand spoken language, and later to speak clearly. That's why it's important to know if your child has hearing loss during infancy or early childhood.

The American Academy of Pediatrics urges you to call your pediatrician if your child has any of these signs and symptoms of hearing loss.

- Your child doesn't startle at loud noises by 1 month or turn to the source of a sound by 3-4 months of age.
- Your child doesn't notice you until they see you
- Your child concentrates on gargling and other vibrating noises they can feel, instead of making vowel and consonant sounds
- Speech is delayed or hard to understand, or the child doesn't say single words like “mama” and “dada” by 12-15 months of age
- Your child doesn't always respond when called
- Your child seems to hear some sounds, but not others
- Your child seems to hear poorly, has trouble holding their head steady or is slow to sit or walk unsupported

•• TODDLER Tales

Playing Is How Toddlers Learn

It's important for you to support and encourage play – it's how toddlers explore and learn about the world. Allow your child lots of time to play.

Play gets kids ready for learning. They have to pay attention to adults, play nicely with others and feel comfortable being away from their parents.

As a parent, when you're having fun playing with your toddler, your child is having fun too. But playtime takes a lot of energy! Find time for yourself.

- Maybe a family member or friend can watch your child for a few hours.
- Check the library to see if they have story times.
- See if community centers and YMCAs have play groups.
- Find a popular playground where you can meet other parents with young children.

•• PRESCHOOL Power

Help Your Preschooler Learn to Read

Reading books aloud is one of the best ways to help your child learn to read. You can add to the experience by doing these simple things:

- Run your finger under the words as you read them to show your child that the print carries the story.
- Use funny voices and animal noises – it'll help your child get excited about the story.
- Stop to look at the pictures. Ask your child to name things they see in the pictures. Talk about how the pictures relate to the story.
- Invite your child to join in when there is a repeated phrase in the text.
- If your child asks a question, stop and answer it.
- Keep reading to your child even after they learn to read. A child can listen and understand more difficult stories than they can read themselves.

