

What Are Some Important Pre-reading Skills?

- ♥ Ability to create "mind pictures."
- ♥ Ability to read the immediate environment - "What do you hear? See? Feel?"
- ♥ Awareness of shapes and patterns
- ♥ Creativity and imagination
- ♥ Curiosity
- ♥ Delight in discovering and learning new things
- ♥ Delight in stories, being read to, looking at pictures, etc.
- ♥ Expanding vocabulary
- ♥ Eye/hand coordination
- ♥ Imagination
- ♥ Listening
- ♥ Looking and seeing
- ♥ Phonic awareness - learning to identify the sounds in words (e.g. the "b" sound: bubble, ball, bird, butterfly, bug, etc.)
- ♥ Predicting and anticipating - What do you think will happen next? What would happen if . . . ?
- ♥ Sequencing - first this happens, then . . .
- ♥ Verbalizing

The young child can best develop these skills naturally and in age appropriate ways through play, exploration, and simple, enjoyable, everyday experiences with caring, loving and responsive adults.

Helping the Young Child Develop Pre-reading Skills

Building pre-reading skills goes hand-in-hand with healthy brain development.

Healthy brain development* is dependent on the connections that are created in the brain during the child's early years.

These connections are created through:

- 1) Simple, enjoyable experiences,** indoors and outdoors, in the company of loving, caring and responsive adults.
- 2) Unstructured play and opportunities to explore and question the immediate environment in the company of loving, caring and responsive adults.
- 3) Frequent social interactions with loving, caring and responsive adults.



** You will find more information on **brain development** in the attached resource materials.*



*** Young children learn through **experience**, using their bodies and their senses.*

- ✿ *Large muscles*
- ✿ *Small muscles*
- ✿ *Touch/feeling (including "mouthing" toys, etc.)*
- ✿ *Taste*
- ✿ *Smell/scents*
- ✿ *Sight/looking/watching*
- ✿ *Hearing/listening*
- ✿ *Voice - making sounds/babbling/talking/ singing*

The American Academy of Pediatrics says that the best place for positive learning experiences is outdoors, in the natural world.