It is never too early (or late) to start doing literacy activities with your child. Strong literacy skills are essential for development and provide a foundation for school and work performance, social skills, and solving problems in all subject areas. Just a few minutes spent each day on simple literacy activities can add up to a lifelong love of reading and learning! These literacy-based activities are great for your newborn, toddler, or preschool age child.

**READING**

- **READ EVERY DAY!**
  Short books with rhythmic patterns and rhyming words are fun. This can be a special time to bond with your baby and help develop their language skills.

**SPEAKING & LISTENING**

- **SPEAK DIRECTLY TO YOUR BABY.**
  When they communicate with you through cries or coos, respond directly to them with smiles and encouragement.

- **SING SONGS.**
  Babies enjoy the rhythms and melodies of music — lullabies, your favorite songs, nursery rhymes set to music, or any songs will do!

- **WALK AND TALK.**
  On walks around the house, yard, or community, talk to them about what you see. Point to objects and describe it to your child.

- **USE SIGN LANGUAGE.**
  Learn and use signs for words your child may need to communicate (more, drink, go, etc.).