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 preschool or early elementary age child.

**READING**

**READ EVERY DAY!**
Getting into the habit of reading every day for at least a few minutes is helpful for your child’s development.

**THINK ALOUD AS YOU READ.**
Point out what you see in the pictures. Talk to your children about what you are reading. What did they like about the story? What didn’t they like?

**WRITING, DRAWING, & CREATING**

**EXPLORE FEELINGS.**
Creativity and ideas can be expressed by drawing pictures.

**BE CREATIVE.**
Paper, crayons, markers, glue, and even household items like noodles, boxes, and sponges can be great tools for creativity.

**MAKE STORIES.**
Encourage your child to “tell stories” to you. Write their story down for them in a booklet (just a few pages of stapled paper is fine!), and have them illustrate their story.

**PLAY “FIRST, NEXT, LAST.”**
Have pictures of different scenes from stories you read, and have your child sequence the events using the pictures. Have them retell the story.

**PAINT WORDS WITH WATER.**
Get a clean paintbrush and small bucket of plain water. Go outside and let your child paint letters or words on the walls, sidewalk, or fence.

**SPEAKING & LISTENING**

**BUILD VOCABULARY.**
Talk with your child about everything. Describe the world around them in real (adult) terms.

**EXPLORE RHYMES AND SONGS.**
These can expose new words and develop speaking skills.