

Play2Read

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Kildare
County Council



Hello, my name is
Rua!
I'm learning my
ABC's



Play2Read

Play2Read is a programme of stories, activities and information to help children develop 6 key pre literacy skills. Early or pre literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can read or write.

Why are these skills important?

- By age 3, a child's brain is twice as active as an adult's
- The first 5 years are crucial to building childrens' language skills
- Using conversational speech has a significant impact on childrens' IQ and vocabulary. Reading together is an ideal way to enjoy, encourage and expand conversations with your child
- Children who have access to books and are read to regularly early in life have significant advantages academically over those who are not read to
- Children who have these 6 pre-literacy skills have an easier time learning to read
- There is a reciprocal relationship between listening, speaking, reading and writing. The development of one supports the development in the others.
- Literacy activities can expand vocabulary, stimulate the brain, promote imaginative and critical thinking and improve intellectual and emotional development.



1 Narrative Skills:

(Ability to describe in sequence and re-tell stories)

- Let your child tell the story and create their own stories
- Use toys, puppets or props to perform the story
- Ask open questions during the story
- Children learn most from books when they are actively involved

2 Letter Knowledge:

(Knowing the ABC and that letters have different names and sounds)

- Point out the first letter of your child's name in books
- Encourage writing, drawing and scribbling
- Play alphabet games, read alphabet books and sing alphabet songs
- Use shapes to help identify letters eg, show the circle shape in letters o, b, g etc
- Simple puzzles will help children see small differences in objects. This is a useful skill to have when learning letters

3 Print Awareness:

(Knowing how to handle a book and noticing print)

95% of children's attention is on the pictures, so to help your child with print awareness....

- Show your child how to hold a book, turn pages and point to words in the book
- Point to different letters on signs and label some items at home
- Let your child see you write and provide plenty of opportunity for writing and drawing
- Write down their stories and let your child illustrate them

4 Phonological Awareness:

(Knowing & playing with smaller sounds in words)

- Use nursery rhymes, songs and poems to play with smaller sounds in words
- Play games where they find rhyming words
- Encourage your child to say words or sentences that they know in the story

5 Print Motivation:

(Having fun reading)

- Let your child see that you enjoy reading yourself, and also reading to them
- Let your child choose what stories you read
- Keep their interest - allow questions and let your child play or perform a part in the story
- A secure, comfortable environment when reading to your child will establish positive associations with reading

6 Vocabulary:

(Knowing the names of things)

- Children need to be exposed to a word up to 12 times before it becomes part of their vocabulary
- Use new words and explain them
- Ask your child for alternatives to words they already know
- Use non-fiction books to introduce new words

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child" -Dr Seuss

