

Helping Your Child Be Ready to Learn to Read

Most children learn to read unfamiliar words when they are in kindergarten, first and second grade. For younger children, there are many things that parents and adults can do to help them develop the foundational skills that will build their success for the elementary school reading program.

The New Mexico Early Learning Outcomes include several school-success building skills related to reading and writing. Our goal for each child is that he or she:

- Learn to listen to directions and conversations
- Begin to hear the sounds that words and letters make
- Speak in his or her home language to communicate with others
- Enjoy looking at and listening to books
- Show understanding of a story read aloud by asking questions and making comments
- Start to recognize letters
- Attempt to scribble or write letters and words

The following activities can help support your child's development of the skills that will help your child learn to read in kindergarten, first or second grade:

Talk and Listen

Have lots of conversations with your child:

- Describe what you are doing.
- Use new words.
- Ask questions.
- Let him tell you what his ideas are.
- Let her share her thinking with you.
- DO NOT correct your child's speech – rather model back the correct way to say something.
- Sing together.
- Use silly words.
- Make up funny rhymes.
- Find time to read to your child daily (at any time during the day and at bedtime)
- Laugh and giggle together!