

# 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:

## Share Your Writing With Your Child

Share the ways you use writing in your every day life (grocery lists, letters and cards, bills, etc.).

Provide writing materials to your child (have a special drawer or box).

Encourage your child to write along with you making her own grocery list or writing his own letter to Grandma.

Accept his attempts at writing as being just right for his age and assure him that he will learn to write "the grown-up way" as he goes on in school.

Help your child learn to write his or her name on unlined paper using a capital first letter and lower case letters after. This is an appropriate expectation for most four-year-olds.

