

# 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:

## Play With the Alphabet and Letter Sounds

- Sing the ABC's song.
- Play with alphabet puzzles and read alphabet books.
- Learn the letters in your child's name.
- Point out letters as you read and write or on cereal boxes and in other places in your daily lives.
- Respond to your child's interest and questions about letters.
- DO NOT do worksheets or drill activities unless your child initiates them and enjoys them.
- DO NOT drill your child on tracing shapes or letters or writing on lined paper unless your child initiates it and enjoys it.
- Play with the sounds of language.
- Make up rhymes. Sing silly songs.
- Talk about the sounds that letters make as you read and converse.

