

# Reading and Writing Around the House

Opportunities to strengthen your child's literacy development are all around the house!

## Family Room

- Exchange Post-it® notes with your children. Put the notes on pillowcases or mirrors, or in lunch boxes, books, or any surprise location.
- Help children assemble photo albums of family events and write captions for the photos.
- Ask children to put their wishes and wants into writing and to suggest how they may work toward or contribute to getting what they want.
- Help children create a family newsletter or website to share with family members near and far.
- Create different ending to a television show you watch. Discuss it and act it out
- Look through the television guide of programs and movies; list all the programs or show that start with a particular letter, blend, consonant cluster, etc.
- One family member uses descriptive words about an object. Other family members guess what the object is.
- Write stories about family events from the photos in your home.
- Turn on the closed caption function of the television instead of the volume.
- Compare and contrast the different photos of family members and discuss how they have changed over time. Write about it.
- Turn the television on mute during commercials and practice sight word flash cards.
- Compare and contrast movies or shows to books.
- Read to, for, or with your child.
- Play games that emphasize word building skills, promote vocabulary skills, and include dramatization such as Scrabble, Boggle, Charades, Guesstures, Taboo, etc.
- Give your child an old telephone to dramatize scenarios. Talking with your child while playing develops oral language skills.
- Include your child when you read, write, or use numbers. Have your child help when you write a grocery list, use a recipe, or look up a number in the phone book.
- Have your child cut out coupons. This improves eye-hand coordination and enhances number recognition skills.
- Make a photo album of family moments and create captions to describe the photos.
- Cut out large letters from newspaper and magazine headlines. See how many words you can make together by moving the letters around.
- Cut comic strips apart and have your child put them back together in order.
- Make a "deck" of cards using index cards. Cut them in half and write words on the cards that are appropriate for your child's level. Make two cards for each word. Play a memory game with the cards, placing all of them face down. Take turns to find pairs of words that match.

## Dining Area/Kitchen

- Post messages on the refrigerator and around the kitchen for your child to practice reading.
- Make writing practical and useful by having children write grocery and task lists, reminders and phone messages, instructions for caring for pets, or directions for getting to the park.
- Make up words using the letters on the telephone keypad.
- Read recipes to help with following directions.
- Place magnetic letters on the refrigerator for letter recognition and making words.
- Read cereal and snack labels.
- Ask your child to find certain letters, words, and numbers on cereal boxes, clocks, stoves, etc.
- Ask your child to find words that rhyme.

## Bedroom

- Read a bedtime story.
- Re-read a familiar bedtime story and ask your child to create a different ending.
- Write a bedtime story and recite it with your child every night.
- Leave a message or note for a family member on his/her mirror (e.g., “I love you very much!” or “Don’t forget to walk the dog.” or “Call me when you get home from school.”) to build fluent reading.
- Help your child make labels for things in his/her room and read the labels together.

## Bathroom

- Read magazines and books while you are in the bathtub.
- Alphabetize, organize, and categorize toiletries.
- Label drawers according to contents.
- While your child is taking a bath, put different objects in the water—like a sponge or a ball—and guess whether it will sink or float.
- Use rubber or magnetic letters that stick to the tub walls to spell out names and words.
- Find objects or perform actions that rhyme around the bathroom, such as “floor” and “door,” or “brush” and “flush,” etc.
- Sing songs together during bath time. Children can sing their favorite songs and chants or recite poems or rhymes in the shower or bathtub.
- Write words with your finger(s) using shaving cream, bubble bath, foam, etc.