



"Simple Gifts"

Early literacy skills begin at birth. Talking, reading and singing with your child will help him/her develop essential pre-reading and pre-writing skills.

Talking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at your child when you are talking to him/her.• Use short sentences and simple words when you are describing common objects.• Take turns: talk to your child and wait for a response.• Listen to your child and then imitate or expand on your child's sounds/words.• Talk to your baby in your first language while changing diapers, feeding and cuddling.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While you hold your child in your lap, share a book.• Turn the pages slowly and point to the pictures in the book.• Use words that describe the colours and shapes of the objects on each page.• Set a time each day to read with your child.• Look for books made of cloth, or vinyl and board books about colours, shapes and familiar objects.• Join a special baby program at your local Best Start Hub.
Singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to children's music at home or in the car.• Learn the words and tunes so you can sing them anywhere or anytime.• Comfort your baby by singing during a 'fussy time' and to distract your little one during diaper changes or bath time.• Borrow other music CD's or audiocassettes from your local library, Best Start Hub or trade with family and friends.• Teach your child about beat and rhythm while having fun by singing and dancing together.