

COLORADO COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION —
PARENTS & READING COMMITTEE

"Books had instant replay long before televised sports."

BERN WILLIAMS

## LITERACY EVERYWHERE!

A literacy-rich environment can help your child build on and improve his/her reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in authentic ways. Here are a few tips to support your child's development of essential literacy skills while promoting a love of learning:

Tip #1: Read aloud to your child. Take your child on an exhilarating journey as they explore and travel to places they've never been before. By reading aloud to your child, you are helping them develop many foundational literacy skills, as well as instill a love for reading.

**Tip #2: Take trips to your local library.** Build your child's curiosity and sense of wonder as he/she explores a world filled with endless possibilities. By visiting your local library, you can expose your child to new genres of books, story time, workshops, and community activities. And the best part of all – it's free!

## Tip #3: Play word games.

Games such as Scrabble, Boggle, and Bananagrams help build letter-sound knowledge, understanding of spelling patterns, word recognition, and vocabulary. Plus they are a fun way to get your entire family involved!



Tip #4: Build foundational literacy skills with trips to your local store. As you get your shopping done, have your child participate in a scavenger hunt finding items that begin with the same letter, have the same beginning or ending sound, and/or rhyme. You can also build vocabulary skills by having your child find various sizes of items (big, bigger, biggest, etc.) in various locations (above, below, behind, etc.).

Tip #5: Write letters to family and friends. What better way to connect with family and friends than

through a hand-written letter? By writing letters, it helps your child build fluency in using language, practice handwriting skills, and express his/her thoughts in written form.

Tip #6: Incorporate digital tools to support literacy learning. Increase your child's engagement and accelerate their learning as they explore various digital tools that incorporate literacy in authentic ways. Some websites and apps include digital storytelling, sight word practice, and reading support.

## Tip #7: Talk to your child and ask questions as you read.

Talking with your child as you read not only helps him/her understand story elements and text features, but also helps develop his/her oral language.

## Tip #8: Encourage literacy play.

Help your child recognize how literacy can be incorporated into every day play. Some ideas include: puppet shows, commercials, memes, advertisements, restaurant menus, and lists.

It's never too late to get involved and be a positive role-model in your child's education. By engaging your child in fun and exciting literacy activities, it is a sure-fire way to develop their love of literacy and learning!