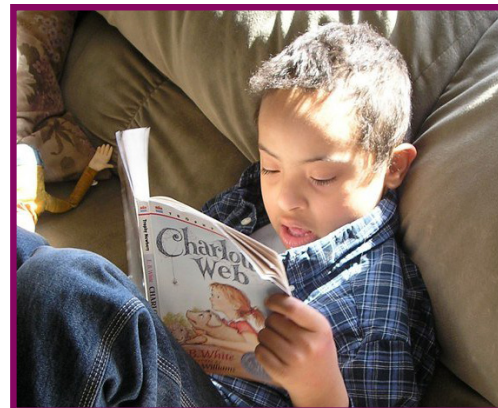


BUILDING LITERACY SKILLS FROM INFANCY TO ADULTHOOD

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN



TALK ALL THE TIME

- ▶ Talk about interests and find books to learn more.
- ▶ Hearing more words helps kids build a bigger and better vocabulary.

PROVIDE INTERESTING BOOKS

- ▶ Offer informational books as well as fiction.
- ▶ Comic books/graphic novels can be a good transition from picture to chapter books.
- ▶ Look for age-appropriate themes at the child's reading level.
- ▶ Try chapter books or harder books to increase vocabulary.

READ ALOUD EVERY DAY

- ▶ Read together taking turns with pages or chapters.
- ▶ Have discussions on what you are reading. Make predictions.
- ▶ Foster independent reading by reading your own book while your child reads theirs.
- ▶ Have your child read to you.

MODEL READING AND WRITING

- ▶ Have books/magazines/newspapers you like to read around the house.
- ▶ Let your child see you read.
- ▶ Talk about what you are reading.

PRACTICE WRITING REGULARLY

- ▶ Set up a writing area. Have writing materials accessible.
- ▶ Have your child help you make lists.
- ▶ Older kids may enjoy making greeting cards, writing letters or keeping a journal.
- ▶ Try letting the child dictate to you or using a dictation app.
- ▶ Find a pen pal or an email pal.

PLAY TIME CAN SUPPORT LITERACY TOO

- ▶ Find apps to work on reading or play games that promote literacy.
- ▶ Play fun board games like Boggle, Clue Junior or Apples to Apples Junior.
- ▶ Minimize screens. Choose educational DVDs or shows (e.g. Signing Time, PBS Kids, NOVA ScienceNOW).
- ▶ Audio books are a great way for children to look at books while hearing words.

NOTE TO PARENTS: Building literacy skills doesn't have to be expensive. Check out your local public library, yard sales, second-hand stores, BuyNothing and other community groups for free or low-cost books. Cardboard boxes make great building blocks and toy kitchens.



Boston Children's Hospital
Down Syndrome Program