



The Home Reading Collective

Together we can grow

## KEY PILLARS OF PARENT-LED LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

- **Establishing a Culture of Reading:**
  - **Daily Read-Alouds:** Reading together, starting in infancy, exposes children to rich vocabulary, complex sentence structures, and the rhythm of language. This consistent routine builds comprehension and fosters a **lifelong love of books**.
  - **Modeling Behavior:** Children who see their parents reading for pleasure—whether a book, a newspaper, or a recipe—learn that literacy is a **valuable and enjoyable life skill**.
- **Building Foundational Language Skills (Oral Language):**
  - **Rich Conversation:** Engaging in frequent, back-and-forth conversations, using varied vocabulary, and asking **open-ended questions** (e.g., "Why do you think the character did that?") significantly expands a child's understanding and expressive language.
  - **Playing with Sound:** Singing songs, reciting nursery rhymes, and playing rhyming games (like "I Spy") develop **phonological awareness**—the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds in words—which is crucial for learning to decode.
- **Developing Print and Writing Awareness:**
  - **Pointing Out Print:** Reading street signs, cereal boxes, or labels on household items helps children understand that print has meaning and that English text is read from **left to right**.
  - **Encouraging Writing:** Providing materials (crayons, paper, magnetic letters) and encouraging early writing efforts—from scribbles to drawing-and-dictating stories—builds fine motor skills and reinforces the connection between the spoken and written word.

By embracing these simple, consistent practices, parents don't just teach *how* to read; they instill the **motivation and confidence** that transforms a child into an active, curious, and successful learner.