Vermont Early Learning: Literacy Development

Older Toddlers

Foundational Reading Skills

Children develop the foundational skills needed for engaging with print, reading and writing.

Print Concepts

1 Demonstrate that print represents words (e.g., pretend to read text)

Phonological Awareness

2 Notice sounds that are the same and different

3 Fill-in words of familiar songs, stories, or finger plays

4 Imitate tempo and speed of sound

Phonics and Word Recognition

5 With modeling and assistance, recognize that letters of the alphabet are a special category of symbols

6 Identify simple, familiar environmental print

Fluency

7 Pretend to read a familiar book

8 With modeling and assistance, use pictures to “read” text

Reading

2a Engagement with Literature and Informational Text

Children develop “book language” and demonstrate comprehension.

1 Provide particular language from a book at appropriate times during shared reading experiences

2 Request adults to read a book

3 Answer simple questions about the story with modeling and assistance

4 Actively participate in shared reading experiences by asking questions and making comments

5 Retell some events in a familiar story with modeling and assistance

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Writing

Children demonstrate the understanding that writing is a means for communication. With increasing fine motor skills and experiences with literacy, children begin to use writing conventions.

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Scribbles with more control and sometimes purpose

Tell others what the scribbles or drawings represent

3 Use dictating, scribbles, or drawings to communicate a message

4 Use a variety of writing tools