Vermont Early Learning: Literacy Development

Younger Preschoolers

Foundational Reading Skills

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

Print Concepts

1 Identify letters of the alphabet as a specific type of symbol that can be named

2 Display some book handling skills (e.g., orient book right side up and turn pages)

Phonological Awareness

3 Identify words as separate units in a sentence

4 Fill-in words in a familiar rhyme

5 Segment spoken compound words with modeling and assistance

Phonics and Word Recognition

6 Point out own name in print

7 Name some of the letters of the alphabet, especially those in their names

Fluency

8 Use pictures to “read” text

Reading

2a Engagement with Literature and Informational Text

Children develop “book language” and demonstrate comprehension.

1 Use pictures to predict book content

2 With modeling, assistance, and props, retell or re-enact a familiar story.

3 Use storybook language, forms and conventions (e.g., once upon a time, the end) when telling stories

4 Have and share an opinion about what they liked and didn’t like about a story or book

5 Demonstrate appreciation for a variety of literary genres (e.g., fantasy, informational texts, non-fiction, fiction)

6 Listen to and discuss informational text and literature

7 Point to print illustrating that print carries a message

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.

Skip to main content

1. Use scribbles, mock letters, shapes and pictures to purposefully represent experiences, ideas, objects, lists,labels or stories
2. Experiment with a variety of writing tools and surfaces
3. Write some letters with assistance and modeling
4. Dictate a story or event for adult to write