

Supporting Language & Literacy

8 Years: Comprehension & Reading to Learn

Literacy is more than just reading words on a page. It's about understanding the storyline, getting to know the characters, and predicting what will happen next. Your child is preparing to transition from learning to read to reading to learn. If your child is struggling with reading comprehension, they may need more help with building their vocabulary or practicing phonics skills.

TIPS & ACTIVITIES



While your child reads aloud, help them process what they are reading by asking questions about different aspects of the story: who, what, when, where, and why.

Challenge your child to read and figure out the meaning of new words using skills like phonics, context clues, and pictures.



Explore a theme your child is studying in class in new ways, like gardening



Make Connections

When a book mentions a place that you've been with your child or activities you've done, talk about those memories. When children connect what they already know to what they read, it helps them focus.



Common Language Milestones

Begins to read with accuracy, appropriate speed, & expression to support comprehension

Knows and applies the relationship between sounds and letters to figure out words

Describes how characters respond to events in a story

Speaks clearly and at an understandable speed

Determines if books are fiction or non-fiction

Early Detection is Intervention

Your child is always learning.

As a caregiver, you have an amazing opportunity to guide them on a path to success! If you notice your child is having difficulties with a certain skill, isn't meeting multiple milestones, or if something just doesn't feel quite right, talk with your child's healthcare provider.



Tips to set you and your child up for success when speaking with their healthcare provider:

Keep a journal.

Write down things that you notice your child doing, or not doing, that cause reason for concern.

Use your resources.

Explore the websites below to find milestone checklists, a list of early warning signs, videos, and more.

Trust your instincts.

You know your child best and you are their best advocate. Don't be afraid to speak up.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Pathways: Communication](#)

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[Cox Campus](#)

[The Basics](#)

[CDC Milestones](#)