



# Promoting Literacy With Your Four Year Old

## Why Is This Important?

Promoting literacy at this age will help your child to understand letter sounds, higher level language, thinking and problem solving.



## When Can We Promote Literacy?

Find a time in your daily routine to sit down with your child to read a book together and share conversation about the story.



## What Can We Do Together?

- Build on interests (eg. relating to your child's experiences.)
- Ask your child to point out "parts of a book" (title, author, and illustrator.)
- Choose books that have a clear beginning, middle and end and problems and resolutions.
- Allow your child to point to the words while you read and point to the picture that illustrate the words that were read.
- Ask WH questions about the pages (eg. "Why is the cat getting new shoes?" "What would happen if...")
- Model grammatically correct sentences.

## How Can We Help?

- Pause often to allow opportunities for your child to take a turn and encourage conversation by pointing to words and commenting on pictures
- Ask your child to tell you about the story in their own words. They can also draw a picture to summarize the story or act it out.
- Take time before reading to encourage conversation about the title page (eg. predicting and drawing upon previous events.)
- Position yourself where the child can see the text and the pictures on the pages.
- Draw your child's attention to the words around you in labels and sings (eg. naming letter names and sounds.)

