

Here are five of the best ways for children to get ready to read.

- * **Talking** Children learn language and other early literacy skills by listening to their parents and others talk.
- * **Singing** Songs are a wonderful way to learn about language. Singing also slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words.
- * **Reading** Reading together—shared reading—is the single most important way to help children get ready to read.
- * **Writing** Reading and writing go together. Both represent spoken language and communicate information.
- * **Playing** Play helps children think symbolically, so they understand that spoken and written words can stand for real objects and experiences.

Children's Librarian

Lisa Anderson
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Library Hours

Monday - Thursday
11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday and Saturday
11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed Sunday

*Parents are a child's first teacher.
The library is the child's first classroom.*

Burlington Public Library
820 East Washington Avenue
Burlington, WA 98233
360-755-0760
burlingtonwa.gov/library



Ready to Read

Building reading-readiness skills for our children



Early Talkers

Birth to Two

Burlington Public Library

What can you do to help your child?

Make sharing books something your baby or toddler wants to do often.

- * Choose a time when you and your baby are in a good mood and ready to enjoy each other.
- * Point to the pictures and talk naturally and cheerfully.
- * While you read, make your baby feel loved and special.
- * Use board books and let your baby hold the book. It is natural for babies to play with books.
- * Notice what your baby looks at and then talk about it.

By the time children are two years old, they know 300 to 500 words. You help your child learn new words by talking and reading together.

Books for Babies and Toddlers

My Car,
by Byron Barton
Babies,
by Beth Landis, ed.
Goodnight Moon,
by Margaret Wise Brown
Rainbow Fish,
by Marcus Pfister
The Very Hungry Caterpillar,
by Eric Carle

Other things you can do

- * Talk with your baby about what is going on around you. This helps develop comprehension skills that will help them understand what they read.
- * Point out letters on toys, food boxes and other objects around the house.
- * Speak clearly. Use short sentences. Repeat yourself when your child shows interest.
- * Singing songs is a good way to help your child hear syllables in words and to learn that words rhyme. Have fun and make up silly, nonsense rhymes.



Spend time with your child in our Early Literacy Center.

What is Early Literacy?

Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school. You can help your baby or toddler learn important skills now so they can become good readers.

The Burlington Public Library's **Ready to Read** program is designed to help parents and caregivers enhance the literacy and language development of their young children.

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