

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



Pre-Readers

Four to Five

Burlington Public Library

What can you do to help your child?

Your home is where your child begins to learn.

- * Talk and listen to your child as you go about your day together.
- * Sing songs and nursery rhymes and play music.
- * Have books within easy reach. Come to the library often and find new books to make reading fun.
- * Give your child many chances to draw and write. Keep paper, crayons, and markers handy. Use magnetic letters on the refrigerator to spell words and messages.
- * Have a prop box with inexpensive items that children can use for imaginative play.

Simple activities help your child get ready to read.

What Parents and Caregivers can do

- * Read together every day. Talk about the story and pictures.
- * Ask open-ended questions. "What's happening here?"
- * Read aloud from everyday print—labels, signs, lists, menus. Print is everywhere!
- * Hold the book upside down. See if your child turns the book around.
- * Show your child that the same letter can look different.
- * Write words that interest your child (like 'dinosaur' or 'truck') using crayons.
- * Cook together—reading the cookbook—to show how books are useful and fun.
- * Read part of the story in a book and ask your child to predict how the story ends.
- * Encourage word games like riddles and puns.



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 preschooler 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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