

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
lisaa@burlingtonwa.gov

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



Talkers

Two to Three

Burlington Public Library

What can you do to help your child?

Reading aloud to children is the single most important activity that leads to success in reading.

- * Read a book you have read before. Switch what you do—you be the listener and let your child tell you the story.
- * Point out and name letters when you read alphabet books, signs, or labels.
- * Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- * Read together every day. When you talk about the story and pictures, your child hears and learns more words.
- * Sing songs. Songs have different notes for each syllable in a word, so children can hear the different sounds in words.

Dialogic or “Hear and Say” Reading

How you read to children makes a difference in how ready they are to learn to read. Use dialogic reading to teach new words.

- * Choose a book that your child knows well.
- * Ask “what” questions. (“What’s this?” and point to a picture)
- * Follow your child’s answers with another question. (“What is the dog doing?”)
- * Repeat what your child says and expand on it. (“I think you’re right. The dog is digging under the fence to go find his friend.”)
- * Help your child as needed. Praise and encourage your child.
- * Follow your child’s interest.



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 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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