



Early Literacy Asides Before or After Singing A Song/Rhyme:

- Singing is a wonderful activity to do with your child! It slows down language to help children hear the smaller sounds in words. This will later help them sound out words as they learn to read.
- Singing nursery rhymes helps children get ready to read. Listening to rhymes helps them hear the smaller sounds in words!
- Singing rhymes and songs lets your child hear the sounds of language. If you are comfortable talking with your children in a language other than English then sing songs in that language! Singing songs in many languages is a wonderful way to get your child ready to read.
- Singing songs and doing rhymes helps support phonological awareness, which is the ability to hear individual sounds. This will help your child when they later try to sound out words to read.
- Singing songs with your child helps them hear words being broken up into smaller sounds because there is a different note for each syllable. This will help them learn to read!
- Singing to your child will help them learn how to break down sounds in words!
- Singing slows down language which is important to help them hear individual words.
- Finger plays that encourage your child to move, wiggle, and separate their fingers help strengthen your child's fine motor skills and the muscles they will later use to write!

Early Literacy Asides Before or After Reading A Story:

- Books are a great way to introduce your child to early math concepts like numbers, counting, and shapes. You can use any book to count objects and identify shapes.
- Pointing out and talking about shapes helps build children's math concepts—it's geometry!
- When you are reading with your child, you can run your finger under the words of the title or a repeated phrase as you say it. This helps children understand that you are reading the text, not the pictures
- Sharing your love of books and reading with your child is an important way for your child to learn that reading is fun!
- You may have noticed that I had the children guess or predict what happened next. This is a fun way to interact around the book while developing scientific thinking.
- There's more than one way to read a book! Having fun with books helps children develop a love of reading. Try singing or chanting a book to a beat. You can even read a book through the pictures and make up your own stories based on the pictures in a favorite book.
- Try asking open ended questions while reading a story to get your child thinking creatively about what you are reading!



Early Literacy Asides Anytime!

- Talking is an important early literacy skill you can do anytime, anywhere! As you talk to your child you are building their vocabulary and language skills.
- When we talk to our children, we help them understand their world, and later to make sense of what they read.
- Remember to not just read the words but talk about the pictures in the book as well! Talking helps build a strong vocabulary!
- Use specific names for different things when you talk to your child to help them build a rich vocabulary.
- Go on a letter hunt at home! Pick a letter and find all the items that start with that letter. This will help build your child's letter knowledge while having fun!
- Reading, singing, rhyming and playing together helps children feel safe and loved, and when children feel safe and loved their brains are more open to learning.
- It's okay if your child wants to repeat the same story or songs, children learn through repetition!