



# Early Literacy Goals



30 Million Words Before Age 4 is an Early Literacy goal that helps guide caregivers with their child's language development. The

number of words a child is exposed to before the age of four is correlates directly with a child's future academic success. When you see the **30 Million Words** symbol on a card, that activity is geared to increasing the number of words that your child hears.



1000 Books Before Kindergarten is an Early Literacy Program that encourages caregivers and their children to

share the joy of reading and prepare their children for future academic success.

When you see the **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** symbol on a card, that activity is geared to integrate more reading into your daily lives.

Track your child's progress on hcpl.beanstack.org

I belong to:

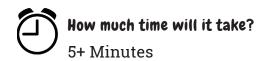
HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY your pathway to knowledge



Where should I do this activity? Anywhere



What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness





# Babble Back!

Have a conversation with your baby.

#### Activity

When your baby is cooing, gurgling or making other noises at you, reply to them. Ask: " **Do you want this? Are you having a good day?** " Keep the conversation going.

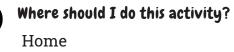
#### Why this is important :

Taking turns with your baby as they babble will prepare your baby for the flow of conversation.

Prenatal & Babies



HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY





What skill(s) does this build? Vocabulary







enatal & Bahid

### Who am I?

Teach your baby the word for you.

#### Activity

For example, Point to yourself and, **"I'm mama, mama, mama,"** and repeat. Point to others and say their names, for an example: dada, sister or brother.

#### Why this is important :

This activity will help your baby to associate specific words with you and others.



Where should I do this activity? Home

What skill(s) does this build? Narrative skills





enatal & Babi

**AIKIN** 

### Hello Baby

Interact with your baby as they move and kick in the womb.

#### Activity

When your baby starts to stir in the womb gently massage your belly where you felt movement. Repeat each time they wiggle.

#### Why this is important :

This activity echoes the call and response pattern children learn in order to have a conversation.

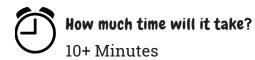




Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Narrative skills





HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY

enatal & Babie

alkin

#### **Toy Story** Use one of your baby's toys to tell a story.

#### Activity

Tell a story using your baby's toys. Be sure to include feelings, colors, sounds, etc. to expose your baby to a wide range of words.

#### Why this is important :

Storytelling helps your baby learn new vocabulary and early narrative skills.

# **Baby in the Kitchen**

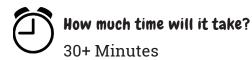
HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY your pathway to knowledge



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Vocabulary





# Baby in the Kitchen

Have a fun and delicious time as you introduce your baby to the words and sounds of the kitchen.

#### Activity

As you make your meal, speak the steps of the recipe out loud. You can also describe the smells and taste of the ingredients.

#### Why this is important :

By getting in the habit of talking to your baby about everyday activities, you are helping them reach 30 million words by age 4.

Prenatal & Babies

# **Rhyming Your Rituals**

HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY your pathway to knowledge



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness





# <u>Rhyming Your Ritu</u>als

Use rhyme to introduce your baby to the world around them.



enatal & Babies

#### Activity

While you go about your daily routines, try to rhyme what you do out loud. You can make it into song or simply rhyme words.

#### Why this is important :

Connecting activities and words is a great way for your baby to understand the world around them and increase their verbal skills in a sensory stimulated way.

# Nursery Rhymes



**V** W

Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness







# Nursey Rhymes

Sing classic nursery rhymes to your baby.



enatal & Babies

#### Activity

Whenever possible, either by singing the songs yourself or playing popular baby music, sing classical nursery rhymes and children's songs throughout your day.

#### Why this is important :

Singing helps to build strong connections between parent and child. It helps familiarize them with your voice and hearing common sounds and rhymes.

# $^{\bigcirc}$ This is the Way...

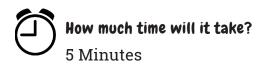




Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness







# This is the Way...

To the tune of **"This is the way "** sing what you and your baby are doing.



enatal & Babies

#### Activity

While going about your daily routine, tell your child what you're doing in song form. **"This is the** way we bundle up, bundle up, bundle up. This is the way we bundle up, early in the morning."

#### Why this is important :

Singing builds phonological awareness. This helps your baby begin to recognize the sounds in words.





Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness



How much time will it take? 15+ Minutes



# Baby Karaoke

Let your baby hear you! Expecting mothers, sing along while you listen to your favorite song.



renatal & Babies

bd

#### Activity

Whether you are taking a walk, doing household chores, or working, sing your favorite songs out loud to your baby

#### Why this is important :

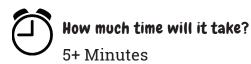
Singing any songs out loud will enhance baby's sensory experiences while in the womb.

# Singing Languages

Where should I do this activity? Anywhere



What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness







# Singing Language

Introduce your baby to a new language through song.



enatal & Babies

#### Activity

Play music for your baby in another language and sing along if you can.

#### Why this is important :

Hearing the sounds used in other languages will help your baby expand their phonological awareness.

# **Messy Writing**

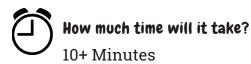
HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Motor skills





# Messy Writing

Make a mess and help your baby learn.



Activity

Let your baby smear and explore with water or other baby-safe substances. You can play along by creating letters, shapes, or pictures and talking about them with your baby.

#### Why this is important :

This type of playing helps your baby develop hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills needed to eventually hold a crayon or pencil to write.

# **Hooray for fingerplay!**

**HARRIS**COUNTY PUBLIC**LIBRARY** 



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Motor skills



How much time will it take?

5+ Minutes



# Hooray for fingerplay!

For fingerplays and other songs, follow us on YouTube @HarrisCountyPL .

# Prenatal & Babies Writing

Sing various fingerplay songs such as **"Open Shut Them"** or **"Row, Row, Row Your Boat"** to your child. Follow the movements of the song or make up your own.

Examples include helping your child raise and lower one finger at a time, move their arms/legs, etc.

#### Why this is important :

Activity

Smaller movements such as moving individual fingers, helps your baby improve their muscle awareness, coordination, and strength.

# **Open**, Shut Them

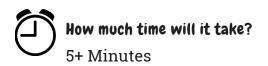
HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY



Where should I do this activity? Home



**What skill(s) does this build?** Motor skills





# Open, Shut Them

Practice opening and shutting your hands along with the song, **"Open, Shut Them."** 

Prenatal & Babies Writing Activity Open, Shut them, Open, Shut them, Give a little Clap, Clap Clap. Open, Shut them, Open, Shut them Put them in your Lap, Lap, Lap. Creep them, Creep them, Creep them right up to your chin. Open up your mouth, but do not let them in.

#### Why this is important :

This song and hand movement will strengthen your baby's hands for future writing.

### Row, Row, Row Your Boat

9

Where should I do this activity? Anywhere



What skill(s) does this build? Motor skills



Prenatal & Babies

# <u>Row, Row, Row You</u>r Boat <sup>(</sup>

Pretend that you are holding a boat oar and paddling along, or make up your own hand motions for the song.

#### Activity

Prenatal & Babies Writing

Row, row, row your boat, Gently down the stream. Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, Life is but a dream.

#### Why this is important :

This song and hand movement will strengthen your baby's hands for future writing.

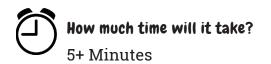


HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY

Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Motor skills





### Me

Sing this fun song with your baby.



Activity I've got ten little fingers, (Hold up both hands) And ten little toes, (Point to feet) Two little eyes (Point to eyes) And a mouth and a nose. (Point to mouth and then nose.) Put them all together (Circle arms as if hugging) And what have you got? (Hands on hips) You've got me, baby (Put thumbs on chest) And that's a lot! (Wiggle hips)

#### Why this is important :

This song and hand movement will strengthen your baby's hands for future writing.

### **Read Picture Books**

HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY your sathway to knowledge

**Prenatal & Babies** 



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness



How much time will it take?

10+ Minutes

# **Read Picture Books**

Introduce yourself and your baby to picture books.

ead 0 6

renatal & Babie

Read picture books out loud. You can read them yourself or have a loved one read to you and your baby.

#### Why this is important :

Activity

It's never too early to get into the habit of reading to your baby. When you read to your baby you are helping your baby familiarize themselves with words and sounds.

### **Read All the Things!**

PUBLICLIBRAR

Where should I do this activity? Home

What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness



Reading

# **Read All the Things!**

Expecting mothers, share what you're reading with your baby.

renatal & Babi

022

Read anything and everything out loud to your baby. You can read books, magazines, newspapers, blogs, emails or even reports to your baby. Read it all!

### Why this is important :

Activity

Reading out loud helps your baby bond and recognize your voice.

### 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY

renatal & Babies



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Print awareness



How much time will it take?

10+ Minutes

Bahi

enatal

### 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Set a goal to read 1,000 books to your child before kindergarten.

### Activity

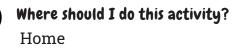
Read a book, any book, you can even repeat books to your child. Make it a goal to reach 1,000 books before Kindergarten.

Track your reading at www.hcpl.beanstack.org

### Why this is important :

This activity prepares your baby for academic success. A positive reading experience allows you and your baby to bond and become lifelong readers.







What skill(s) does this build? Background knowledge



How much time will it take? 10+ Minutes Reading

# **Read Pictures**

Find books with great illustrations or photos and very minimal text.

Prenatal & Babies Reading Babies can learn words quickly by seeing images matched with pictures. Flip through a book with your baby and point to the item and say the word.

### Why this is important :

Activity

Even with their eyesight limited to about 12 inches, newborns can recognize a face. This activity will help your baby to increase their object recognition.

# What Does This Sign Say?

HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY your pathway to knowledge

renatal & Babies

9

Where should I do this activity? Out and about



What skill(s) does this build? Print awareness

Letter knowledge



How much time will it take?

10+ Minutes



# What Does This Sign Say?

Point to and read signs to your baby while you're out and about.

renatal & Babie

023

Point out signs and read them to your baby. Read out the letters on the sign, **"This red sign says, STOP, S-T-O-P, STOP!"** 

### Why this is important :

Activity

Your baby's eye sight is still developing, so this activity helps them recognize the color and shapes of signs.

## What Do You Feel?

HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY your pathway to knowledge



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Background knowledge Vocabulary



How much time will it take?

10 Minutes



# What Do You Feel?

Explore different textures with your baby.



### Activity

Using anything with different textures, run the object over your baby's skin while you play and describe how it feels. **"Does it feel bumpy?" "Does it feel soft?"** Use as many descriptive words as you can.

#### Why this is important :

Your baby is learning new textures and the words to describe them.

## **Alphabet Touches**



& Babies



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Letter knowledge



How much time will it take? 10+ Minutes

# Alphabet Touches

Have fun with your baby as you trace and say the alphabet.



### Activity

Use your finger to trace letters on your baby. Build upon this by saying **"A is for apple"** or other simple phrases.

### Why this is important :

This will introduce your baby to the alphabet in a fun and playful way.



HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY

Where should I do this activity? Home

What skill(s) does this build? Background knowledge





### Peek-a-Boo!

Hide behind something and pop back out.



### Activity

Using a scarf, your hands, a pillow or anything else you have on hand, hide and ask your baby **"Where is \_\_\_\_?"** Then pop out and say, **"Here I am!**"

#### Why this is important :

This activity teaches your baby object permanence which is the understanding that even if you can't see something, it's still there.

# **Playing the Drums**

HARRISCOUNTY PUBLICLIBRARY your pathway to knowledge

& Babies



Where should I do this activity? Home



What skill(s) does this build? Phonological awareness Motor skills



How much time will it take?

10+ Minutes

# Playing the Drums

Turn everyday items into an instrument for baby to play.



### Activity

Allow your baby to drum away as you both make up and sing silly songs.

### Why this is important :

This activity will help your baby with the sounds of words and to recognize rhythm in language and music.

## **Mirror Your Baby**

Where should I do this activity? Home

What skill(s) does this build? Interaction





# Mirror Your Baby

Play "Follow the Leader" with the baby while inside the womb.



### Activity

When you feel or see the baby moving inside the womb, mirror their movements with some of your own such as light knocking, tapping, massaging or rubbing.

#### Why this is important :

This activity creates an interaction with your baby and builds a stronger bond using touch.