



## Fostering Future Authors

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### Future Authors are Shaped

- Create a love of and confidence with books, language, and stories
- Exposure to tools and materials
- Nurture writing skills
- Familiarize with all the world has to offer
- Encourage creativity and interests/hobbies

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### US Literacy Rates

<http://www.statisticbrain.com/number-of-american-adults-who-cant-read/>

U.S. Illiteracy Statistics	Data
Percent of U.S. adults who can't read (below a basic level)	14 %
Number of U.S. adults who can't read	32,000,000
Percent of prison inmates who can't read	70 %
Percent of high school graduates who can't read	19 %
Reading Level of U.S. Adults	Percent
Proficient	13 %
Intermediate	44 %
Basic	29 %
Below Basic	14 %
Demographics of Adults Who Read Below a Basic Level	Percent of Population
Hispanic	41 %
Black	24 %
White	9 %
Other	13 %

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### Create a Love of Books, Language, & Reading



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### Learn to Love Books

- Have books and all types of printed material available
- Read daily for at least 15 minutes (Be creative)
- Choose age appropriate books or materials to match the child's interest and developmental level
- Go to the library or book store
- Make books together
- Refer to *Read with Me* for more reading strategies (*Read with Me* by Shari Robertson, Ph.D. through [dynamic-resources.org](http://dynamic-resources.org))



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### Learn to Love Language



- Talk to your child all day about everything she sees and does (*The 30 Million Word Gap*: <https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/periodicals/TheEarlyCatastrophe.pdf>)
- Sing & perform finger plays and rhymes
- Make fun sounds while playing
- Pair sounds with movement
- Use all words with kids even if they seem too sophisticated

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### Learn to Love Stories

- Tell stories without books
- Be creative & have kids join in
- Use props and/or act it out
- Be animated and silly
- Can be done anywhere and anytime (in the car, while waiting for a meal at a restaurant, in the pool...)



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### Exposure to Writing Tools and Materials



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### Writing Encompasses Fine Motor Skills & Creativity

- Provide all types of art supplies
- Provide paper and envelopes
- Provide greeting cards and stationary
- Provide journals or notebooks
- Supervise little ones to keep messes to a minimum and help them learn harder skills like cutting.



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### Build a Story

- Use their artwork to tell stories
- Write down what they say modeling, writing, and showing spoken words can be written words



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### Nurture Writing Skills



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### Expose to Print Early and Often

- Read daily from a variety of print materials
- Run your finger under words as you read
- Point out print in day to day objects (cereal boxes, stop signs, T-shirt art, company logos on toys)
- Label objects in the house
- Take time to read the signs at parks or depicting historical places
- Listen to audiobooks while reading along
- Have loved ones send letters and cards

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### Expose to Writing early and Often

- Make grocery list together
- Label leftovers or to organize shelves and cupboards
- Journal about your day
- Write thank you cards
- Get a pen-pal
- Label artwork
- Make scavenger hunts with pictures and words
- Communicate via notes on a whiteboard left in the main living area

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### Early Writing Skills

1. Make Marks (letters are just squiggly lines with no meaning)
2. Apply meaning to the marks (the squiggly lines are associated with sounds or letters)
3. Understand how written language works (the letters work together to make words and we read right to left)

This information is simplified from the in-depth info found at <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-do-i-write-scaffolding-preschoolers-early-writing-skills>

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### Stages of Writing

1. Drawing and scribbling
2. Start to make letter forms but not associating them with words
3. Early kid writing-putting letters together to form words in a way that makes sense to that child (most consistently using correct beginning sound)
4. Words take shape-Beginning and ending sounds correct with spaces between words




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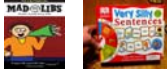
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## Support Grammar Learning

- Encourage kids to learn to love grammar with fun games
  - Mad Libs
  - Very Silly Sentences game



- Help with ELA homework
- Continue to read to kids daily choosing materials with developmentally appropriate content as well as more challenging things

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## Familiarize with All the World has to Offer

- Be adventurous and go to new places
- Be creative and find inexpensive and free programs or places
  - National parks are free for 4<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Junior Ranger Program at some national and state parks  
<https://www.nps.gov/kids/jrangers.cfm>
  - Libraries, local and state parks, neighborhood walks, ball games, museums, street fairs, car cruises, walks to big cities and drives through farm land can all be free
- Involve Your child in daily activities
  - Trips to the grocery store or farmers market
  - Cooking dinner or planting a garden

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## Familiarize With the World...

- Go on trips to wherever you can afford (camping in your backyard or a trip to India)
- Enjoy concerts and plays (universities and local schools often have low cost or free events. Look at the calendars posted on-line)
- Visit ethnic neighborhoods in nearby cities
- Take all forms of transportation (Planes, trains, and buses)
- The possibilities are endless-Get out into the world so your child will be **knowledgeable and curious**

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### Nurture Creativity and Interests

- Once your child expresses interest in something, run with it.
- Give them as much experience with it as you can afford (both time and money wise)
- Fostering interests will give them passions and **passion is what sparks writing**

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### Now They are Ready to Write

- You've laid the foundation now get them writing and sharing what they write.
- Set up a blog and invite trusted friends and family to read it.
- Have weekly or monthly story sharing evenings
- Offer gentle critiques to help your young author evolve as a writer
- Visit the websites of their favorite authors
- Enter writing competitions or create your own
- Binding services can be sought to make stories into books

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### Some Resources

- [http://www.osspeac.org/wp-content/uploads/iphorm/16/2016/10/cabell\\_earlywriting\\_ppt\\_6slides\\_per\\_page.pdf](http://www.osspeac.org/wp-content/uploads/iphorm/16/2016/10/cabell_earlywriting_ppt_6slides_per_page.pdf)
- <https://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/nwp/ten-ideas.html>
- <http://www.themeasuredmom.com/how-to-inspire-kids-to-write-at-home/>
- <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/seven-ways-to-encourage-kids-writing/>
- <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/25-ways-get-kids-writing/>
- <http://www.getreadytoread.org/early-learning-childhood-basics/early-literacy/understanding-beginning-writing-skills-in-preschoolers>

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