

Resources from the Field: Enhancing Early Literacy Through Family Engagement



QSLA has gathered activities and practices that you and/or your fellow early educators use related to **Early Literacy** into this resource document. Check out the ideas below – you never know what may spark your interest! Thank you to all early educators who shared their wisdom and experience!

Activity/Practice Name	Overview of the Activity/Practice	Links/Materials/Relevant Information
<i>Sing, Talk, Read, Write, Play 15 Minutes per Day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage families to find pockets of time - even 15 minutes - where they can include reading, singing, playing, etc. into their routine as a family! Singing songs while driving to program in the mornings or after pick-up! Make reading part of a child's routine, i.e. before bed. 	The Basics - Talk, Sing and Point (0-3 yrs old) Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Building Early Literacy Skills
<i>Discuss While Reading</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask children questions while reading. Make sure they understand what is happening as the story progresses, including reading between the lines. 	Book or video of read-aloud QSLA Reading Tips Infographic
<i>Focus on 1-2 Books per Week</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend 1 day reading the book with their child. If possible, spend another day with their child retelling them the story. On a separate day, try changing the ending of the story together. 	Book or video of read-aloud
<i>Create a Story Based on a Picture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use an image (whether printed or from a book) and invite a child to create a story based on what they see! 	Printed image or book
<i>Puppets/Role Playing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell a story or read a book using a puppet. This can include an actual puppet or a makeshift sock or toy. Invite families to create a puppet with their child at home, using a sock or paper bag! 	*Puppets, toys, or plush animals (optional) *Sock or paper bag, craft decor (markers, glue, glitter, etc.)
<i>Use household items to make a story</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a few household items - ex. A towel, a cup, and a toy - and use it to make up a story! 	Household items
<i>Singing Songs Together</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage families to make up their own songs! This can be great for routines like brushing teeth and tying shoes. Sing songs from their home language! 	Kid Songs Playlist
<i>Storytelling</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate storytelling in program routines with children. Encourage families to tell stories from their childhood experiences or tall-tales that they heard growing up! 	CAEYC: Storytelling Strategies



<i>Travel the World Through Reading</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read (or listen to) stories books about other places in the world to explore or learn about other countries or cultures. 	Tumblebook Library
<i>Supporting Dual Language Learning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn some words in a family's language (i.e. Hi and Bye). • Offer books in their home language. • Invite family members to read books in their home language to the program's group. • Singing songs in different languages. 	<p>*Translation site (ex. Google Translate)</p> <p>*Book or video of read-aloud</p>
<i>Labelling in Different Languages</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label classroom and home objects in relevant languages (i.e. table, chair, lamp, toys, etc.) based on the languages spoken by the families you serve. 	Labels, tape/adhesive glue
<i>"Read with Me" Backpacks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"We give children 10 books to take home. 5 in English and 5 in Spanish."</i> Early educators can locate books in other languages, depending on families' home language. 	Books or printed stories , bags or folders
<i>Lending Library</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a collection of books and resources that families can borrow from. If families are comfortable doing so, invite them to donate books as well! Families may even share children's books from their home language as well. 	
<i>QSLA Early Literacy Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check out the wide variety of QSLA's Early Literacy Resources, offered in English and Spanish; including an Early Literacy Toolkit with guidance on how to create reading routines, bring in fun, create a book nook, & storytelling! • QSLA also offers a variety of themed book lists on topics like traditions, feelings, and holidays - in English & Spanish! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QSLA Early Literacy Resources • QSLA Early Literacy Toolkit • QSLA Themed Booklists
<i>Sesame Street in Communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sesame Street in Communities offers a free Reading and Writing resource page with great early literacy activities including storybooks, articles, videos, and games! 	Sesame Street in Communities: Reading & Writing page
<i>ABC Mouse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC Mouse is an online learning curriculum for ages 2-8. The curriculum covers reading, math, science and art. 	ABC Mouse Link (First month is free!)
<i>Seesaw Application</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I encourage parents to use the Seesaw app's recording feature to record their child's voice retelling the stories. Parents loved it. This activity encourages parents to read to their child as well."</i> 	Seesaw App Link (Can sign up for free!)
<i>Learning Genie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Genie offers an all-in-one data driven Family Engagement Suite featuring two-way communication with auto-translation, family engagement tool, digital In-kind tool, and versatile survey tool. 	Learning Genie Link (One month is offered for free!)
<i>Ready Rosie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a tool that programs can purchase to communicate with families regarding program efforts and to share step-by-step activities, i.e. how to read with children, how to make playdough together. 	Ready Rosie Link