EI Breakfast Club

October 26th, 2026

Department of Children & Youth

MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Ohio THE HEART OF IT ALL™

AGENDA

EI Updates

- Policy and Monitoring
- Professional Development
- Presenter: Dr. Kristin Farley, Literacy Specialist

UPDATES



POLICY AND MONITORING
UPDATES

DS CERTIFICATION RULE

- Implemented October 15
  - https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5180:8-1-05

- Updates outlined in September 29 EI Program Update and in Transmittal Letter 107
  - Renumbered to 5180:8-1-05
  - Reformatted into question-and-answer format
  - Minor technical corrections and clarifications
  - Streamlined certification pathways
  - Adjusted the evidence-based practice coaching timeframe

- Applicable resources and guidance related to the rule were updated and are available on the Credentials and Certifications page of the EI website

SFY27 45-DAY COMPLIANCE

- First compliance analysis of SFY27 – activities will begin soon
- Inclusion email early November
- Webinar on November 17 at 2:00 PM - Please note change in date
- Data cleaning until December 1
- Data extraction December 14
- Access the full compliance calendar on the Monitoring page of the EI website

NOVEMBER 1 LEA REPORTS

- Must be run no earlier than October 22 and no later than November 1
- Updated applicable child information in EIDS in a timely manner so that the LEA reports are accurate.
- Only the sections of the report that are relevant to a particular LEA should be sent to that LEA.
- If you are not sure which LEA should be selected for a specific child, contact the relevant educational service center (ESC) for clarification.
    - Contact information for ESCs and public school districts is available here.
- The report does not need to be submitted to DCY, but we encourage you to keep a copy for your records.

TRANSITION STEPS AND SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

- Transition Steps and Services and Transition Planning Conferences (TPCs) are not required to be completed on the same day

- Transition planning should start as early in a child's EI journey as possible – development of a transition outcome with transition steps and services at an IFSP earlier than the TPC is likely

- First instance of a transition outcome with transition steps and services at an IFSP at least nine months and not more than 90 days prior to the third birthday meets Transition Steps and Services compliance requirement
  - Associated date should be entered in EIDS
  - Date should NOT be updated in EIDS if a new transition outcome is developed and/or or steps and services associated with a transition outcome are updated at a later IFSP

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

- After 36 years of state service, Melissa Courts is retiring this month
- Melissa worked for over a decade as an EI monitoring consultant



CONGRATULATIONS, MELISSA!!!

UPDATES



PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

EI COURSE TRANSITION

The Early Intervention (EI) coursework currently housed in DODD MyLearning is transferring to the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR).

Important Dates

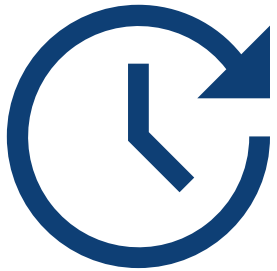


- The last day to enroll in an EI course in MyLearning is **December 11**.
- The last day to complete all EI course work in MyLearning is **December 24**. Note that course progress for unfinished courses will not transfer to the OPR.
- Beginning **December 14**, Early Intervention professionals will register for EI courses in the OPR.

EI COURSE TRANSITION

The Early Intervention (EI) coursework currently housed in DODD MyLearning is transferring to the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR).

What you can expect in the future



- Regular guidance, reminders, and updates in the EI Program Updates.
- Guidance documents outlining how to locate, enroll in, and complete the EI courses in the OPR.
- Continued access to your MyLearning profile after December 2026.
- Direct support by contacting eitraining@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.

EI COURSE TRANSITION

The Early Intervention (EI) coursework currently housed in DODD MyLearning is transferring to the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR).

Action steps you can take to prepare



- Create an OPR profile.
- Plan to complete any EI coursework you have started in MyLearning by **December 24.**
- If you regularly use resource links on any EI course pages in MyLearning, be sure to download or bookmark them prior to **December 11**.

Kindergarten Readiness Cards

Dr. Kristin Farley, Literacy Specialist

Department of Children & Youth

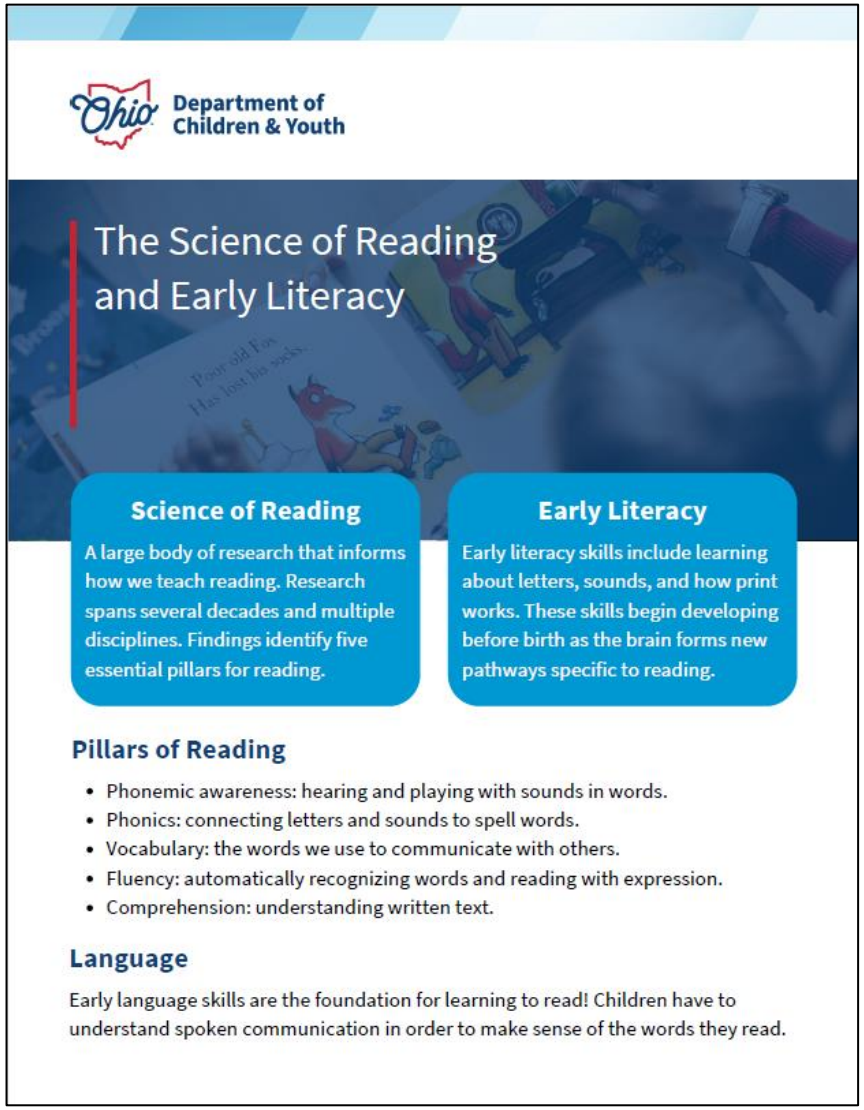
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Resources use simple language.
- Handouts include practical tips and suggestions.
- Activities do not require extra materials or time.

SCIENCE OF READING



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The Science of Reading and Early Literacy

Science of Reading

A large body of research that informs how we teach reading. Research spans several decades and multiple disciplines. Findings identify five essential pillars for reading.

Early Literacy

Early literacy skills include learning about letters, sounds, and how print works. These skills begin developing before birth as the brain forms new pathways specific to reading.

Pillars of Reading

- Phonemic awareness: hearing and playing with sounds in words.
- Phonics: connecting letters and sounds to spell words.
- Vocabulary: the words we use to communicate with others.
- Fluency: automatically recognizing words and reading with expression.
- Comprehension: understanding written text.

Language

Early language skills are the foundation for learning to read! Children have to understand spoken communication in order to make sense of the words they read.



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SCIENCE OF READING

Early Literacy

Alphabet knowledge

Learning about letter names, shapes, and sounds is a critical foundation for reading and writing.

Playing with sounds

Hearing and separating sounds in words is the most important skill for learning to read and spell.

Understanding print

Reading from left to right and from top to bottom of the page are fundamental to reading and writing.

SUPPORTING INFANTS AND TODDLERS

- Talk and encourage children to imitate speech sounds.
- Describe what you see and do to develop language skills.
- Sing songs and play rhyming games.
- Read books together. Point to the words as you read.
- Share stories and ask questions.
- Expand on children's short responses or vocalizations with complete sentences.

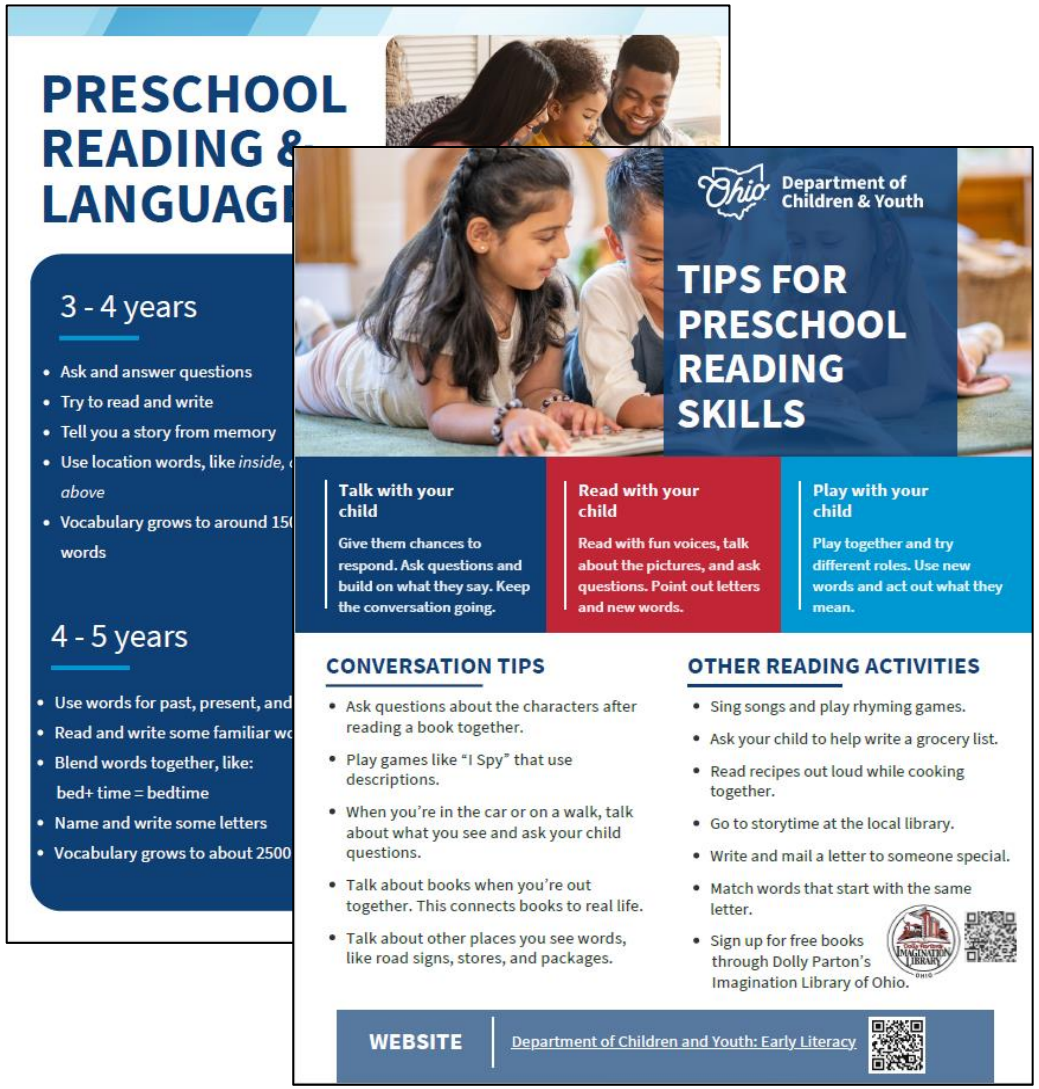
SUPPORTING PRESCHOOLERS

- Have frequent conversations and take multiple turns in each conversation.
- Play games like "I Spy" to build vocabulary.
- Point out letters and words in the environment.
- Talk about books you and your child have read. Connect them to real life events.
- Play rhyming games and match words that start with the same sound.
- Write a grocery list or send a postcard.

WEBSITE | Department of Children and Youth: Early Literacy

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY GUIDES





PROFESSIONAL GUIDE



PARENT LITERACY GUIDES

What professionals need to know

Birth-5 years is a critical period for language and literacy growth. Early language and literacy skills promote kindergarten readiness and positive outcomes later in life, making it important to develop these skills early. This guide will help you use the parent literacy handouts and talk to families about the importance of talking and reading with their children from an early age.

PURPOSE OF GUIDES

- Help parents support their children's language and literacy growth.
- Suggest ways to build language and literacy into routines with no extra time required.
- Provide guidelines for expected language and literacy skills at each age.
- Offer resources if parents have concerns about their child's progress.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Provide handouts to parents based on child's age.
- Discuss the importance of building early language and literacy skills.
- Model language and literacy practices.
- Help parents sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio.
- Look for warning signs that a child could need additional support.
- Support families through the referral or intervention process, if necessary.
- Help parents download the Sparkler app to complete the ASQ and find activities to do with their child at home.

Scan QR code to download the Sparkler app

Use the access code **OH** to register after downloading.

WARNING SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

*Infant not cooing or babbling
*Child not responsive to caregiver
*Few or no books available
*Limited vocabulary
*Disinterested in books or reading
*Unable to form simple sentences
*Does not follow basic directions
*Speech is difficult to understand
*Extended periods of screen time
*Unable to carry on conversations
*Answers are off-topic

Website

Department of Children and Youth: Early Literacy

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

BOOK LISTS

FRIENDSHIP



Nugget and Fang
Tammi Sauer & Michael Slack

A Color of His Own
Leo Lionni

The Cool Bean
Jory John & Pete Oswald

All Are Welcome
Alexandra Alessandri

Mabel Wants a Friend
Ariel Bernstein & Marc Rosenthal

Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away
Meg Medina & Sonia Sanchez

I Forgive Alex
Kerascoët

The Invisible Boy
Trudy Ludwig & Patrice Barton

Little Taco Truck
Tanya Valentine & Jorge Martin

Strictly No Elephants
Lisa Mantchev & Taeeun Yoo

My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay
Cari Best & Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Sourgrass
Hope Lim & Shahrzad Maydani

Something Beautiful
Lita Judge

We Disagree
Bethanie Deeny Murguia

My Best Friend
Julie Fogliano & Jilliam Tamaki

Be a Bridge
Irene Latham, Charles Waters, & Nabila Adani

Scan this QR code for more book lists!

Department of Children & Youth

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION



Families Are Different
Nina Pellegrini

We Waited for You
Cindy Chupack & Emily Hamilton

A Is For Always: An Adoption Alphabet
Linda Cutting & Leonie Little Lex

A Mother for Choco
Keiko Kasza

Mama's Waves/Daddy's Waves
Chandra Ghosh Ippen & Erich Ippen Jr.

Families Change
Mary Gallagher & Julie Nelson

I Wished for You: An Adoption Story for Kids
Marianne Richmond

Adoption is Both
Elena S. Hall & Lara Norris

How I Was Adopted
Joanna Cole & Maxie Chambliss

You Weren't With Me
Chandra Ghosh Ippen & Erich Ippen Jr.

Just Because I Was Adopted: A Story About Adoption and Forever Love
Dr. P. Shiroma

Delly Duck: Why a Little Chick Couldn't Stay With His Birth Mother
Holly Marlow & Suzy Garland

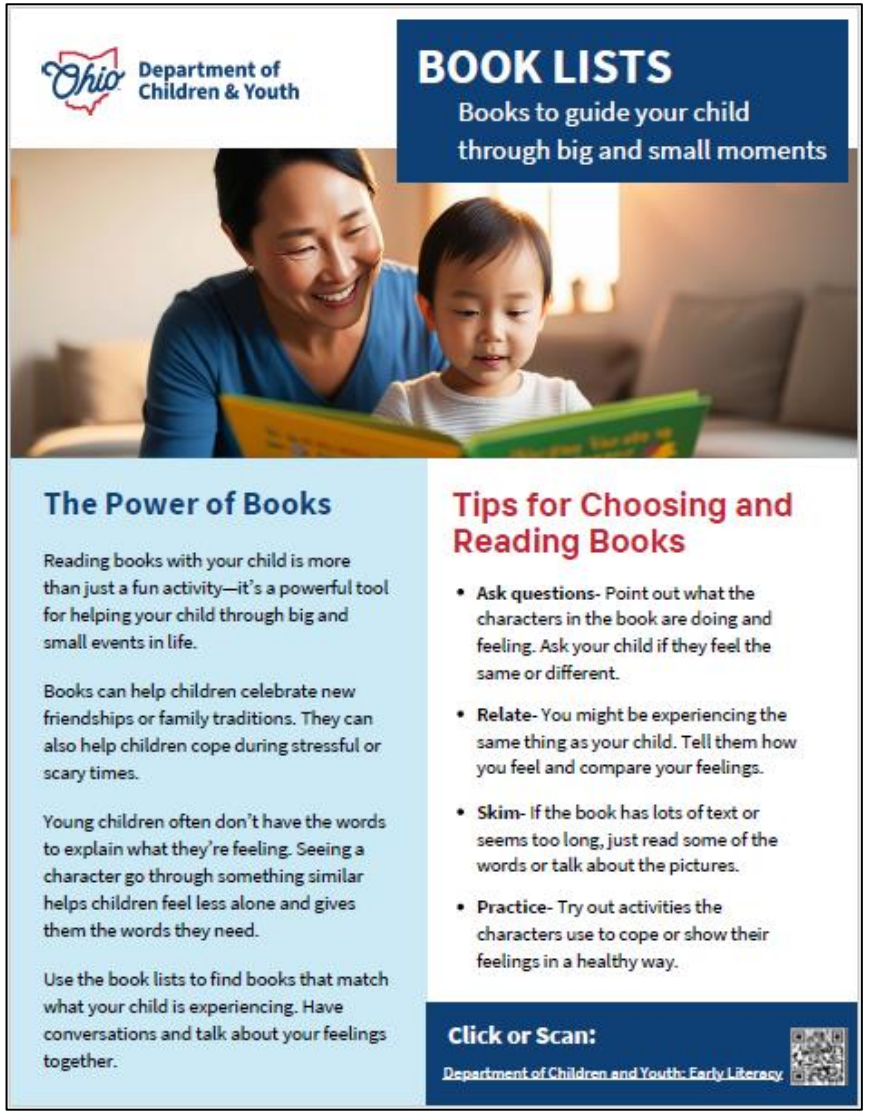
Kids Need to be Safe: A Book for Children in Foster Care
Julie Nelson & Mary Gallagher

Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care
Jennifer Wilgocki, Marcia Wright, & Alissa Geis

Scan this QR code for more book lists!

Department of Children & Youth

BOOK LIST GUIDES



Department of Children & Youth

BOOK LISTS

Books to guide your child through big and small moments

The Power of Books

Reading books with your child is more than just a fun activity—it's a powerful tool for helping your child through big and small events in life.

Books can help children celebrate new friendships or family traditions. They can also help children cope during stressful or scary times.

Young children often don't have the words to explain what they're feeling. Seeing a character go through something similar helps children feel less alone and gives them the words they need.

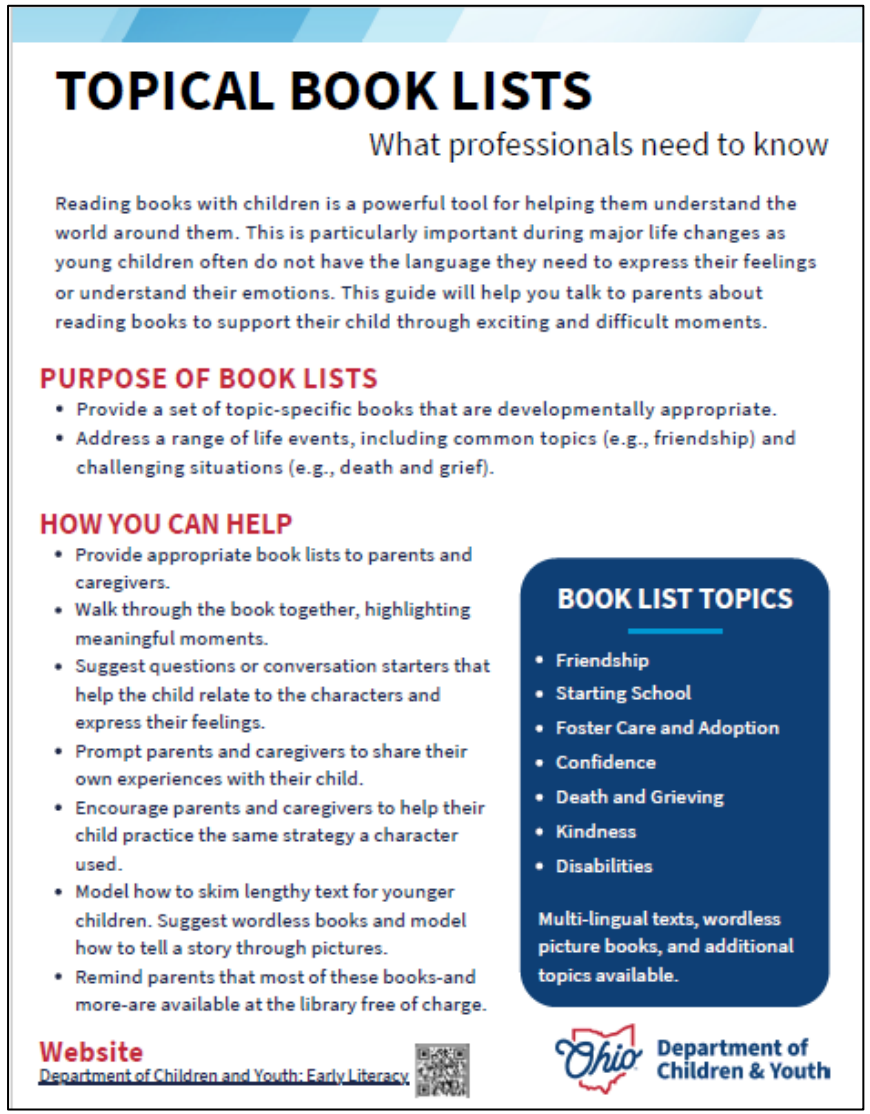
Use the book lists to find books that match what your child is experiencing. Have conversations and talk about your feelings together.

Tips for Choosing and Reading Books

- **Ask questions-** Point out what the characters in the book are doing and feeling. Ask your child if they feel the same or different.
- **Relate-** You might be experiencing the same thing as your child. Tell them how you feel and compare your feelings.
- **Skim-** If the book has lots of text or seems too long, just read some of the words or talk about the pictures.
- **Practice-** Try out activities the characters use to cope or show their feelings in a healthy way.

Click or Scan:

Department of Children and Youth: Early Literacy



TOPICAL BOOK LISTS

What professionals need to know

Reading books with children is a powerful tool for helping them understand the world around them. This is particularly important during major life changes as young children often do not have the language they need to express their feelings or understand their emotions. This guide will help you talk to parents about reading books to support their child through exciting and difficult moments.

PURPOSE OF BOOK LISTS

- Provide a set of topic-specific books that are developmentally appropriate.
- Address a range of life events, including common topics (e.g., friendship) and challenging situations (e.g., death and grief).

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Provide appropriate book lists to parents and caregivers.
- Walk through the book together, highlighting meaningful moments.
- Suggest questions or conversation starters that help the child relate to the characters and express their feelings.
- Prompt parents and caregivers to share their own experiences with their child.
- Encourage parents and caregivers to help their child practice the same strategy a character used.
- Model how to skim lengthy text for younger children. Suggest wordless books and model how to tell a story through pictures.
- Remind parents that most of these books-and more-are available at the library free of charge.

BOOK LIST TOPICS

- Friendship
- Starting School
- Foster Care and Adoption
- Confidence
- Death and Grieving
- Kindness
- Disabilities

Multi-lingual texts, wordless picture books, and additional topics available.

Website

Department of Children and Youth: Early Literacy

Department of Children & Youth

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF OHIO

Department of Children & Youth

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD

Book guide

Read and talk with your child to build their early reading skills! Research shows that a child's brain is 80% developed by age three, so read and re-read often. Use this guide to look for ways to talk with your child and extend their fun even after the book ends!

FUN FACTS

- Did you know that trains have been used for over 200 years? They carry people and supplies all over the country every day. The fastest train can travel nearly 300mph!
- The little blue engine has *confidence* that she can help the train. *Confidence* means she believes in herself!

TALK ABOUT IT!

Talk to your child and ask questions, even if they only respond with coos or say 1-2 words. Respond and repeat answers back in full sentences.

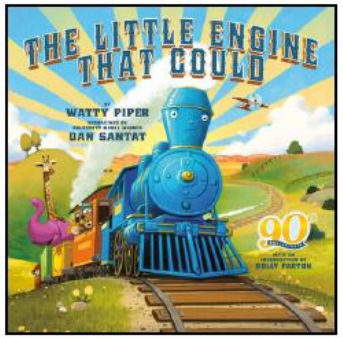
- How many cars can you count on the train? What colors are they?
- What animals or toys would you carry on the train?
- Have you ever tried to do something that was really hard? How did you do it?
- How do you think the toys felt when the other engines wouldn't help them?
- Can you think of a time when you helped someone else? How did you help them?

WEBSITE

https://www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org/

Department of Children & Youth

STRETCH THE STORY!



Keep talking about *The Little Engine That Could* even after the story is done! Here are some fun things you can try at home:

- As your child works on a hard task like crawling or stacking blocks, encourage them with the train's chant, "I think I can!"
- Line up trains, cars, animals, or other toys your child has. Help them count how many toys you have and name each one.
- Tap out the rhythm of the chant, "I think I can!" Try your own chant and rhythm, and have your child tap it out with you. Make the chant go faster or slower and have your child follow your speed.
- Search for extra materials to build your own train. Use materials like empty cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls, or other objects you find.
- Create your own story about helping others. What is the character's problem? How can you help solve it?
- Draw a picture of a train. Choose your favorite color and label it with words like *train, engine,* or *caboose*.

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KINDERGARTEN READINESS



Department of Children & Youth

Kindergarten Readiness

WHAT IS KINDERGARTEN READINESS?

Kindergarten readiness is all about helping your child build the skills they need for school.

WHEN SHOULD I START BUILDING THESE SKILLS?

It's never too early to start! Talk and read to your child from birth for healthy brain development.

Why is Kindergarten Readiness important?

Children's brains are changing quickly during their first five years. This is a prime time to help your child develop healthy brain connections that will help them read, count, build friendships, and learn about the world. Children who are ready to start kindergarten are more likely to be skilled readers by third grade and graduate high school compared to children who are not ready for kindergarten.

How can I help my child be ready for kindergarten?

Kindergarten readiness includes knowing letters and sounds, numbers, and shapes. It also includes problem solving and social skills, like sharing and following simple directions. To help build all of these skills, talk to your child often and ask questions. Point out letters, numbers, and shapes you see, such as store names and addresses. See which toys sink or float in the water during bathtime. You can build skills during daily routines with your child without needing extra time!



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KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Activities at home

Talk about print

Print is everywhere! Point out letters on road signs and match them with sounds. Look for numbers and shapes like address numbers above rectangular doors or square windows.

Solve problems

Ask questions to help your child think of new ways to solve a problem. Show them how you would do it! Try thinking out loud to help them hear how you solve your own problems.

Role play

Pretend play with your child to help them learn about feelings. Act like you are excited, sad, or angry and show your child how to share your feelings in appropriate ways.

ACTIVITIES

- Go for a walk and collect leaves, sticks, or other items. Compare their shape, color, or size.
- Put together a simple puzzle to work on solving problems and sitting still.
- Read books and write together to name and write letters.
- Make silly faces in a mirror. Talk about your emotions with each face you make.
- Play "I Spy" with letters and sounds. Look for objects that start with the same sound or letter.
- Play games with simple rules and help your child take turns.
- Sing songs and read favorite books together. Ask questions and connect to your child's life.
- Cook a meal together! Help your child read the recipe and measure ingredients.

RESOURCES

For more activities you can do at home, download the Sparkler app for free!

Scan QR code to download the Sparkler app

Use the access code OH to register after downloading.

Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio for free monthly books!

WEBSITE DCY: Kindergarten Readiness

KINDERGARTEN READINESS CARDS





KINDERGARTEN READINESS CARDS



Department of Children & Youth

KINDERGARTEN READINESS CARDS

Birth to School Readiness

Readiness starts at birth

Many people think that children start getting ready for kindergarten around four or five years old, but they actually start learning the minute they're born! Babies are always noticing new things and trying to make sense of the world around them. The good news is that simple, everyday activities can have a big impact on how your child grows.

Small, daily actions

Families can practice kindergarten skills, like learning about letters, numbers, sharing, and taking care of their own needs, anytime and anywhere. The Kindergarten Readiness cards have tips and fun activities that you can enjoy with your child during everyday routines, such as bathtime, riding in the car, waiting in line, or taking a walk.

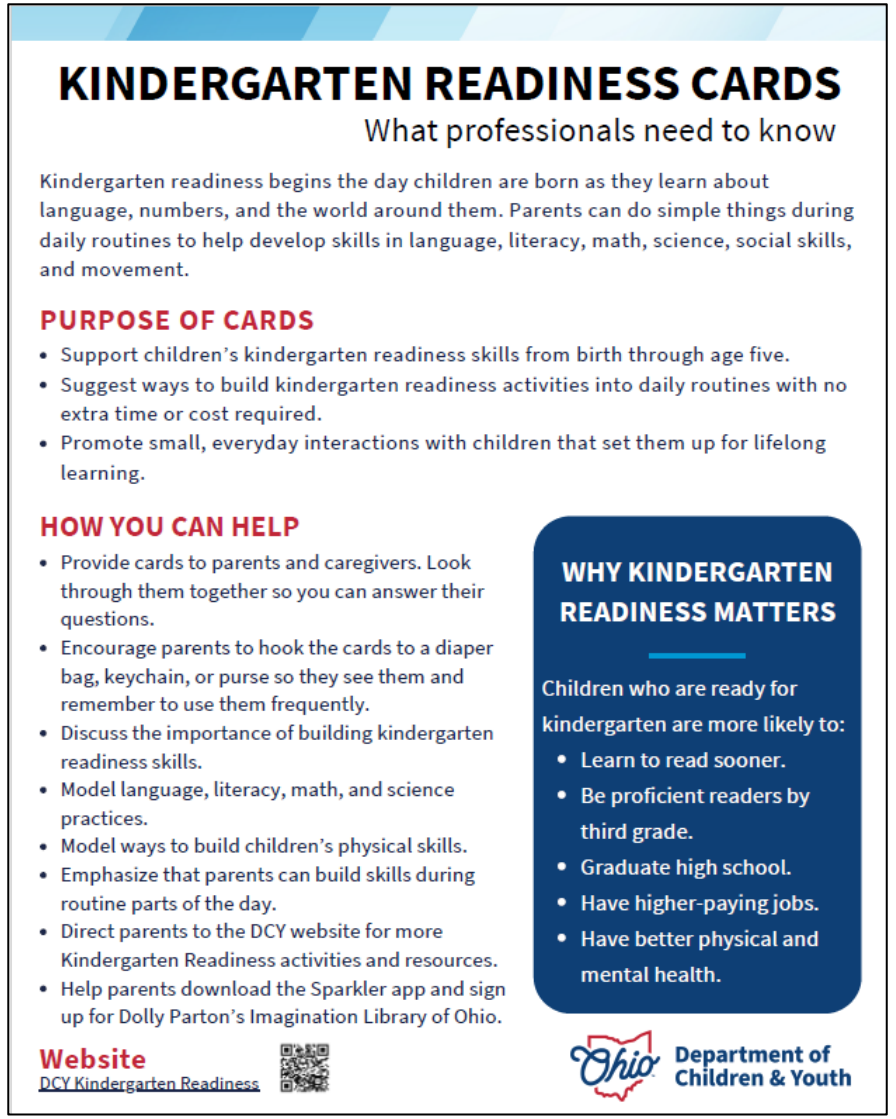
It's never too early or too late, so check out the Kindergarten Readiness cards for a new activity to try today!

Using the cards

Each Kindergarten Readiness card begins with an easier activity and adds more challenging ones to try as your child grows. Choose any card to start with and do the first activity. If it's easy for your child, go to the next one.

- **Talk**- Take turns talking and listening to your child. Even babies answer with sounds and smiles!
- **Repeat**- Try activities more than once. This helps your child learn new skills and get ready for what comes next.
- **Connect**- Connect the activities to your child's life. This makes learning meaningful and exciting.
- **Read**- Read books and look at pictures together often! Name pictures or skip some words when books are long.

Website
DCY Kindergarten Readiness



KINDERGARTEN READINESS CARDS

What professionals need to know

Kindergarten readiness begins the day children are born as they learn about language, numbers, and the world around them. Parents can do simple things during daily routines to help develop skills in language, literacy, math, science, social skills, and movement.

PURPOSE OF CARDS

- Support children's kindergarten readiness skills from birth through age five.
- Suggest ways to build kindergarten readiness activities into daily routines with no extra time or cost required.
- Promote small, everyday interactions with children that set them up for lifelong learning.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Provide cards to parents and caregivers. Look through them together so you can answer their questions.
- Encourage parents to hook the cards to a diaper bag, keychain, or purse so they see them and remember to use them frequently.
- Discuss the importance of building kindergarten readiness skills.
- Model language, literacy, math, and science practices.
- Model ways to build children's physical skills.
- Emphasize that parents can build skills during routine parts of the day.
- Direct parents to the DCY website for more Kindergarten Readiness activities and resources.
- Help parents download the Sparkler app and sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio.

Website
DCY Kindergarten Readiness

WHY KINDERGARTEN READINESS MATTERS

Children who are ready for kindergarten are more likely to:

- Learn to read sooner.
- Be proficient readers by third grade.
- Graduate high school.
- Have higher-paying jobs.
- Have better physical and mental health.

Department of Children & Youth

ORDERING

- Free!
- Boxes of 450
- Multiples of 50
- Cards, carabiners, and professional guides
- Shipping ~2 weeks



https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/hV1XDe8MxN

EARLY LITERACY WEBSITE

https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/early-care-education/early-literacy

- Science of Reading handout
- Parent language and literacy handouts and guide
- Book lists
- Launch Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio site for book guides

KINDERGARTEN READINESS WEBSITE

https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/early-care-education/kindergarten-readiness

- Birth to School Readiness
  - Kindergarten Readiness handout
  - Flipbook and accompanying guides
- Family Resources
- Tip Sheets (Talk, Read, & Sing Together!)

