

# United Way's —SUMMER LEARNING COLLABORATIVE—

## WHAT EXACTLY IS LITERACY?

**WRITING • SPEAKING • LISTENING • READING**

Literacy is easy. Literacy is fun. Literacy engages children with a variety of activities based on reading, writing, speaking, thinking, gathering new knowledge and expressing themselves.

## Great Big Takeaway

When kids develop solid literacy skills they grow up to become successful adults.



## THE FIVE BUILDING BLOCKS OF LITERACY

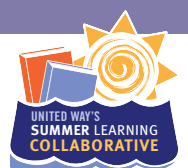
- **Phonemic Awareness**  
How letters sound
- **Phonics**  
Sounding out written letters
- **Reading Comprehension**  
Understanding what is written
- **Fluency**  
Reading easily with expression and speed
- **Vocabulary**  
Knowing many words

## TIPS FOR AN AWESOME READ-ALoud!

- Choose a book you love.
- Pre-read the book before reading to your child.
- Check to be sure the book is age-appropriate.
- Identify where you want to stop to ask open-ended questions such as:
  - Has this ever happened to you? ◦ What would you do in this situation? ◦ What are you thinking about now? ◦ What will happen next? ◦ What characters do you like/not like in the book? ◦ How will the story end?
- Share life experiences that relate to the book.
- Identify ideas and concepts you need to share with your child so that the book makes sense.
- Think about how you want to read the story. How will you show emotion? Will you read fast in some areas and slow/suspenseful in others? Will your voice be happy, sad, spooky, soft, high, low?
- What kind of activities might be fun to do after reading the book? Discussion, drama, art, songs, games, dance, poetry?

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# TEN KEYS TO ENRICHING CHILD-PARENT INTERACTIONS

1. Be interested! Find your curiosity and enter the world of your child.
2. Ask open-ended questions, especially questions you don't already know the answers to.
3. Offer your own opinion and then ask your child for theirs.
4. When your child asks you a question, ask them to make a guess instead of simply telling the answer.
5. Invite your child to use their imagination (e.g. if you could invent a bug what would it look like?)
6. Follow up to your child's answers with "why do you think that?"
7. Ask "what if" questions.
8. Ask your child to predict, and then explore why they made the prediction.
9. Use new words when you talk to your child. Having a strong vocabulary and being able to understand complex language will help your child understand stories they hear.
10. Engage in positive back and forth interactions as much as possible with your child. This actually builds early brain development to aid in their long-term wellbeing.



## ONLINE RESOURCES

[joinvroom.org/](http://joinvroom.org/)

[brainbuildinginprogress.org/](http://brainbuildinginprogress.org/)

[earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php](http://earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php)

[readingrockets.org/audience/parents](http://readingrockets.org/audience/parents)

[pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/](http://pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/)



## Learning Should Never Take a Summer Vacation.

For more summer learning activities and information, visit [unitedwaymassbay.org/SUMMERLEARNING](http://unitedwaymassbay.org/SUMMERLEARNING)

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