



Six Early Literacy Skills:

1. **Letter Knowledge**- becoming aware that there are different letters, each with a different "name", and that sounds go with certain letters
2. **Narrative Skills**- being able to describe things, understand the concept of "story" (beginning, middle and end)
3. **Phonological Awareness**- becoming aware of sounds, smaller units being combined for larger words *
4. **Print Awareness**- recognizing words in books, but also *anywhere*... signs, bulletin boards, cups, walls, etc.; learning basic reading rules (left to right, top to bottom)
5. **Print Motivation**- developing a child's interest and awareness of words; wanting to "write" or read stories
6. **Vocabulary**- beginning to know the names of things

**most children who have problems reading have a problem with phonological awareness*

Tips for Reading with your baby:

First, be comfortable, cozy and relaxed - both of you. On the other hand, hearing a story can be very calming for a child who is in 'one of those moods'.

Next, make sure your child can see the book **the right way up** as you read.

For babies and toddlers up to 2 years

- point at pictures and say or ask names of things (depending on age)
- use a slow sing-song voice
- use different voices for different characters - be entertaining
- spend time talking about the pictures before turning the page
- say a name and ask your older baby or toddler to point to the item
- give huge praise each time your child points at and names an object