**READ**

- Make time to read together every day.
- Borrow books from your local library.
- Attend Storytime, Baby Time/Tiny Tots programs at the library!

“Today a reader... ...tomorrow a leader.”
– Margaret Fuller

**PLAY**

- Play is learning!
  - Encourage your child in play by participating, talking, and listening to your little one.
  - Try playing peek-a-boo or patty cake.
  - Encourage your child’s imagination by pretending and playing make believe.
  - Allow plenty of time for unstructured play.
  - Play in the Rise & Shine: Early Literacy Center with your child at the library!

**SING**

- When you sing or listen to music, your child learns the rhythms of language and becomes aware of the smaller sounds that make words.
  - Sing a song while you ride the bus or take a walk together.
  - Borrow children’s CDs from the library.
  - Try singing, rather than reading, a book of children’s poetry or nursery rhymes.
  - Attend a Music and Movement Program at the library!

**WRITE**

- Allow and encourage your child to scribble and “pretend” to write. This jumpstarts the skills they need to become successful readers and writers.
  - Provide lots of paper, crayons, and pencils.
  - Talk to your child about their drawings and write captions below their pictures.

**TALK**

- Talk to your baby and young children; they are listening and learning about language.
  - Talk about anything and everything, especially your actions – “Now I’m going to tie your shoes!”
  - Ask your child to tell you a story or talk about their day.
  - Borrow children’s CDs from the library.
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**READ**

- Reading aloud or shared reading is the best way to prepare a child to reading dependently.
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