

Play

Play helps children to develop motor skills, spatial awareness, and early literacy skills that are the foundation for learning to read. Play activities can help build vocabulary, knowledge of story structure and sequence, and letter knowledge (through play with shapes or sorting and matching activities).

Complete at least 4 of the 6 activities to earn this badge.

- Build with blocks
- Play a sorting activity or matching game together
- Do a puzzle together
- Engage in pretend play or act out stories with props (could include play with stuffed animals, dolls, or puppets)
- Engage in active play (can include hide and seek, chase, peek-a-boo, or throwing a ball)
- Play with trains, cars, or other toy vehicles

Talk

Talking with children helps to build language, conversational, and other early literacy skills that are the foundation for learning to read. Talking activities can help children hear and recognize the sounds and rhythm of language, build a large vocabulary of words that they will recognize, and help them build background knowledge about the world and daily life.

Complete at least 4 of the 6 activities to earn this badge.

- Make animal noises and vehicle sounds.
- Talk about what you see on a walk.
- Say nursery rhymes and clap or tap out the syllables in the words.
- Talk about all the activities you did in a day.
- Play rhyming games with words.
- Talk about what's happening in the pictures when reading a book with few words.

Read to Me Activity Badges Page 2

Sing

Singing helps build language skills and other early literacy skills that are part of the foundation for learning to read. Singing activities help make it easier for children to hear the smaller sounds in words and help to build their letter knowledge, story structure knowledge, and vocabulary.

Complete at least 4 of the 6 activities to earn this badge.

- Sing a favorite song together
- Make up a silly song
- Dance and sing along to a favorite musician
(check out Laurie Berkner, Jim Gill, or Raffi if you need suggestions)
- Sing the ABC song
(If you're brave, try singing it to a different tune like Mary Had a Little Lamb.
This helps slow down the LMNOP section.)
- Sing a song that you can add motions or movement to
(like The Wheels on the Bus; Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes; or Itsy Bitsy Spider)
- Sing a classic nursery rhyme
(like Twinkle, Twinkle; London Bridge; or Baa Baa Black Sheep)

Explore the Library Virtually

Complete at least 2 activities to earn this badge.

- Visit the library website to see what resources we offer.
- Check out our YouTube channel to see our videos.
- Attend a virtual event this summer. See the Kids Events and Classes page on the website.
- Read along with animated children's books online.
Check out Tumblebooks and BookFlix on our website.

Read to Me Activity Badges Page 3

Write

There is a strong connection between reading and writing. When children are given a chance to explore scribbling, draw pictures, and tell stories, they are learning early literacy skills that are part of the foundation for learning to read. Writing-related activities help them to become aware that printed letters stand for spoken words as they see print used in their daily lives. These activities can also help build their knowledge of letters, their ability to tell stories, and their vocabulary.

Complete at least 4 of the 6 activities to earn this badge.

Draw or color a picture (scribbling counts!) together.
If they can, have them tell you about what is happening in the picture.

Make letter shapes. You can use play-doh or clay, draw with chalk, or trace letters in sand or dirt.

Make a card for someone (scribbling counts!). If they can, have them tell you what to write.

Make a finger painting. If they can, have them tell you about what is happening in the painting.

Play with letter toys (magnets, bath toys, etc.).

Write your child's name and point out the letters.