

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH PRESCHOOLERS

- Have your child help you choose which books and stories to read at the library, and have them practice retelling the story in their own words.
- Talk about the pictures, characters, and events in the story as you are reading – have your child make predictions, or use their imagination to make up other stories with the same characters.
- Point out some of the letters in the book. “There is a ‘K’. Your name starts with a ‘K’ too.” You can run your finger below the text as you read aloud.
- Connect the story with your child’s life. “That truck looks like the one we saw yesterday, doesn’t it?”

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

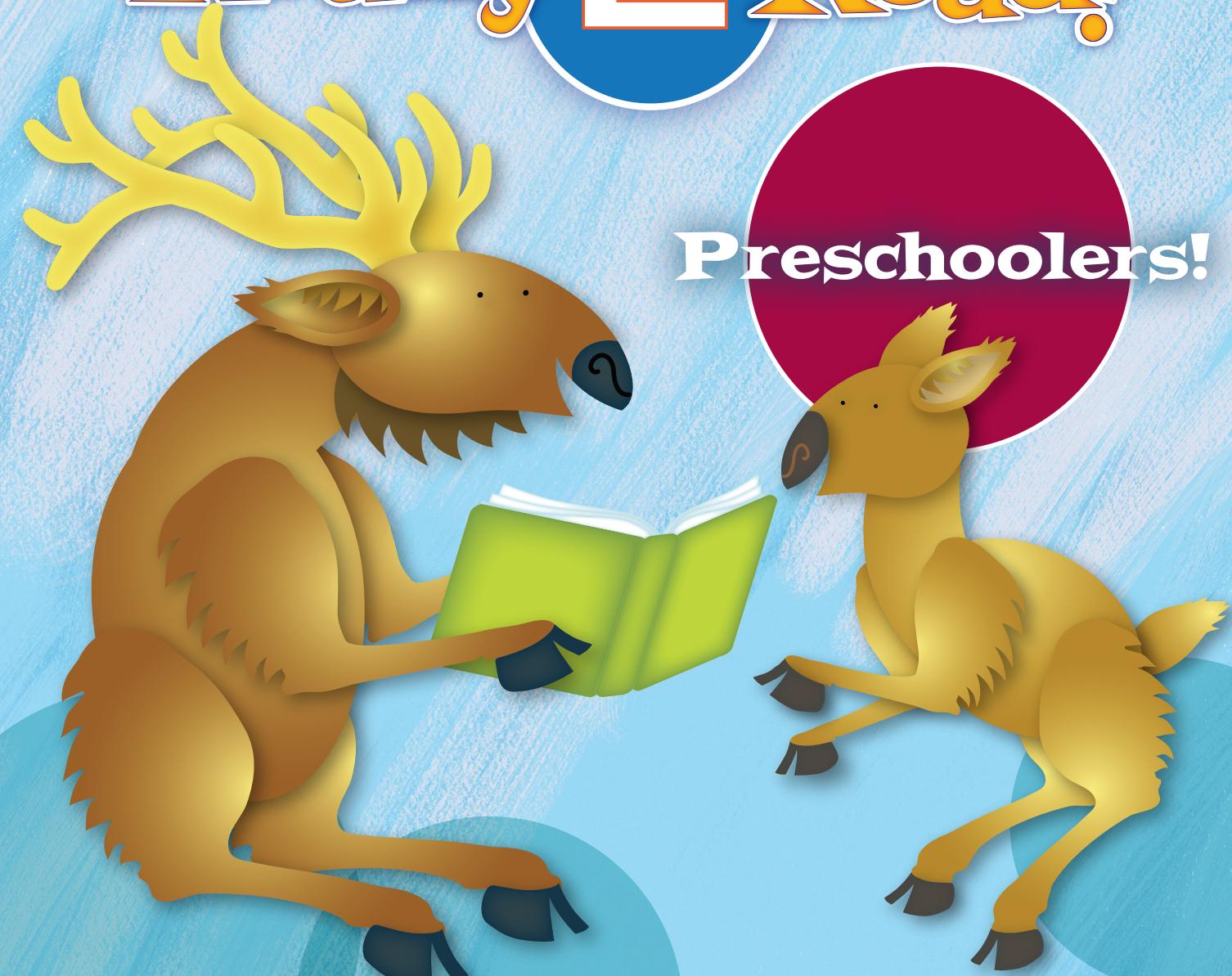
You can learn more about how to help your child’s early literacy skills by talking with your local public librarian! You can also visit ready2readmontana.org for more resources on books, songs, fingerplays, and other fun things to do with your child.



<http://ready2readmontana.org>

Ready 2 Read!

Preschoolers!



What is Early Literacy?

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school. You can help your child learn important skills now so they can become good readers later. The five skills to practice with your child are Reading, Singing, Talking, Playing, and Writing. Developing these skills now will give your child a strong foundation for future learning and growing!

Preschooler's EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

You are your child's first teacher – children learn best by doing things, and they love doing things with you! As someone who knows your child best, you are in a great position to help your child practice these skills that become building blocks for reading, writing, and learning about the world!



READ

Reading together helps your child learn new stories, ideas, and situations. You can develop your child's love of learning through stories, even if it is just a few pages at a time!



WRITE

When children use a pen or pencil, it helps develop those fine motor skills they will need later on. Drawing shapes, scribbles, and doodling are all important parts of preparing to learn how to write, and can help them get used to controlling their pencil.



TALK

Conversations can help your child learn new words, develop speaking and storytelling skills, and help them understand what they are reading or experiencing.



SING

Singing breaks words into smaller pieces and helps your child hear the differences in language. Singing also encourages children to have fun with words, learn about rhyming, and express themselves creatively! Share songs with your child, and help them create their own!



PLAY

Playing is how children learn and make sense of the world. Imaginative pretend play, building with blocks, indoor and outdoor games, interacting with others – all build important cognitive and social skills that children practice during play!

READING MILESTONES

While every child is different, here is what preschoolers may like to do with books and how you can help them enjoy the stories you share with them.

YOUR CHILD @ 3 AND 4 YEARS

- Handles books and paper pages with ease.
- Understands that the words on the page mean something.
- Begins to recognize letters.
- Enjoys longer stories with characters and plot.
- Likes discussing books.

YOUR CHILD @ 5 YEARS

- Sounds like she is reading when she pretends to read.
- Begins to recognize a few words.
- Understands that print is read from left to right and top to bottom.
- Begins to recognize rhyming words and beginning letter sounds.
- Can retell simple stories.

