

EARLY LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS

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Grocery Store Literacy

A simple trip to the grocery store can turn into a real learning experience for your child. Below are some easy ways to build literacy and math skills while getting your shopping done at the same time!

Focus on reading readiness skills

Lots of grocery items come in different flavors. Ask your child to help you find a particular flavor by giving them clues, like the colour of the box or the letter it starts with. For example, can she find the low fat milk? It's the bag that is white and blue and the first letter is 'L'. She'll be using her literacy skills to find the right item.

Put your child in charge of the grocery list. As you put items into the cart, ask your child to cross it off the list. If you buy an item that wasn't on your list, ask him to add it. This provides an opportunity to practice writing skills.

Focus on vocabulary skills

Take a trip down the pasta aisle to see the different boxes. Ask your child to **compare** the various noodle in terms of **length, width, shape, and size**. Choose one box and challenge your child to come up with descriptive words for the types of pasta.

The produce section is a great place to hear new **interesting words**. Words like rhubarb, asparagus, artichoke, and kiwi are fun to say, and fun to eat. As you introduce each one, use descriptive words to help your child learn. "A kiwi has a fuzzy outside, but the inside is bright green with black seeds!"

Focus on math skills

Look for **geometric shapes** (e.g., spheres, cubes, cones) as you go through the store. Play a game with your child. Find a **shape**, such as the **cube** shaped box of tissues, and then look for other items with the same **shape**.

As your child gets a bit older, show your child the unit pricing labels on various items. Help them learn to compare prices using these tags. Ask your child, "Which size container is the better deal? Why?" Discuss the sale items too. What does "Buy one, get one free" mean? If frozen peas are 10 for \$10, how much would four bags cost?

You don't have to do all of these things each time you're at the store, but while you're there, find creative ways to turn your grocery store into a fun place of learning.

RESOURCE: Reading Rockets



If you read just **one** book a day,
to your child,
they will have been read **1825**
books by their 5th birthday!

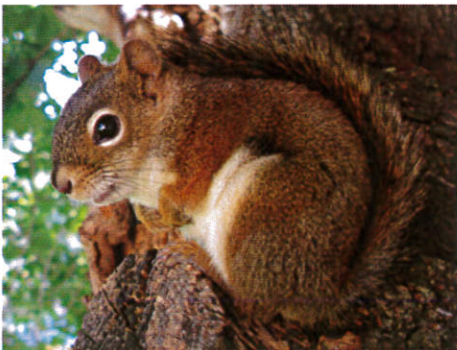
Every Day Counts

Every Book Counts

Scurry Squirrel

Sung to the tune of: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Scurry squirrels and don't be slow.
Winters coming, Don't you know?
Scamper, scamper all around.
Bury treasure in the ground.
Scurry Squirrels and don't be slow.
Winters coming, don't you know?



Five Little Leaves
(Sung to the tune of: Six Little Ducks)

Five little leaves were hanging in a tree
Red, orange, yellow, green, pretty as can be.
Whoosh, came a breeze of cold fall air,
And only four little leaves were left hanging there.

Four little leaves were hanging in a tree
Red, orange, yellow, green, pretty as can be.
Whoosh, came a breeze of cold fall air,
And only there little leaves were left hanging there.

(Repeat for 3 & 2)

One little lonely leaf, hanging on a tree.
Whoosh, came a breeze of cold fall air
And left the tree and branches bare!

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