



ALASKA **READS** AT HOME

Families and communities are our students' first and forever teachers.

Young children spend most of their waking hours in spaces with family and community. You can help your baby, toddler, or preschooler begin to develop the skills they'll need to read by:

- **Telling stories.** Share stories with your child about your family, history, travels, culture, or beliefs. Create your own new, imaginary stories together.
- **Starting where you are.** Explore your home, lands, or community with your child. Build language skills and vocabulary by teaching them the words to describe their surroundings.
- **Building curiosity.** Encourage your child to ask questions about anything and everything.
- **Singing songs.** Sing and rhyme to help your child begin to develop the skills they'll need to read and spell words.



- **Reading together.** Read books to and with your child, beginning at birth.
- **Providing choice.** Encourage your child to choose the books, stories, and themes that interest them. Offer books written by and featuring characters of diverse identities, because all children benefit from learning about the richness of other cultures, places, and peoples. Read and reread their favorite stories.
- **Keeping the conversation going.** Have conversations before, during, and after reading with your child. While you're reading, stop and encourage them to imagine what could happen next. Afterwards, reflect on what they learned and what they liked in the story.
- **Modeling reading.** Monkey see, monkey do — your child loves to copy *you!* Interact with print texts in front of your child.
- **Reading day and night.** Don't stop with a bedtime story! Set aside time to read throughout the day.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Read Early and Often

Zero to Three

www.zerotothree.org/resource/read-early-and-often/

Baby Raven Reads

Sealaska Heritage Institute

www.sealaskaheritage.org/institute/education/education-programs/baby-raven-reads

Communication, Language & Literacy

Alaska Early Learning Guidelines

www.alaskaelg.org/domain-5-communication-language-and-literacy/

Reading with Babies & Toddlers

Colorín Colorado

www.colorincolorado.org/reading-babies-toddlers

AKLearns

Region 16 CC & Alaska DEED

www.aklearns.org

