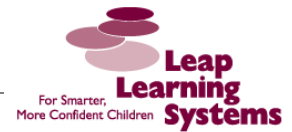


Preparing Children to Read

Leap Learning Systems



Children learn about letters, sounds, words and play in pre-school. Their teachers prepare children for kindergarten and first grade when they will learn to read.

Remember that reading is all about words that people say in their daily lives. The words are printed, using alphabet letters. Matching the symbols of alphabet letters to words children have heard is really a miraculous process.

For some children, this comes easily. But for other children learning to read can be difficult. There are many skills that children can absorb at home and in preschool that help them to become successful readers.

Skills Learned Shortly After Birth

- Studying faces
- knowing that some signs mean hamburgers...
- hearing and loving family stories...
- using words they have heard from parents...
- being read to often enough that reading seems fun and familiar...
- hearing words wash over them in daily conversations so that they understand familiar book words.

We've listed more formal skills that children learn from parents and teachers in home or school-like settings on the next page.

Successful readers will have had experience with these skills so that when they are asked to: say the sounds of print letters... say them as a whole word.... understand the word.... remember it when they have sounded out the whole sentence... and connect meanings sentence to sentence. They have worked hard... but successfully and with pride!



Kindergarten-useful emergent literacy skills- **Concepts and Vocabulary**

- Understands classroom vocabulary
- Understands 200+ concept words
- Understands words of: color, actions, shape, events, size, spatial terms, quantity, quality, comparison
- Understands and manipulates comparisons among categories
- Provides early synonyms. Names alternatives within a class. Answers: "It looks like a _____ but really is a _____"
- Understands wh- questions: what, which one, where, who, when
- Knows that directions should be followed
- Understands concepts and vocabulary outside his or her own experience
- Understands and uses *and, if, because, then* in sentences

Kindergarten-useful emergent literacy skills– **Listening Skills**

- Follows classroom routines and attends to teacher in circle time
- Listens to peers in circle time or dramatic play
- Responds to his or her name
- Begins to follow conversational rules/turn taking/adding detail
- Focuses on and follows most teacher directions
- Follows new routines and attends to changes in directions
- Follows routines and story sequences in dramatic play
- Includes outside experiences appropriately in class experiences
- Complies with wh- and complex questions (who, what, why, where, how, what if, might, could, can, when)
- Understands relation of new vocabulary words to old

Kindergarten-useful emergent literacy skills– **Phonemic Awareness**

- Beginning blending, rhyming
- Cloze activities (fills in the missing word on familiar materials)
- Cloze activities (fills in the missing sound) in words
- Beginning assembly consonant-vowel ("mmaaaa") or vowel- consonant ("uuuup") sequences
- Beginning to break apart consonant-vowel or vowel- consonant sequences
- Identifies missing or added sounds
- Recognizes the alphabet
- Recites the alphabet song
- Says names of most uppercase letters/many lower case letters
- Emerging sound/letter knowledge- knows the sounds letters make
- Recognizes name in print
- Knows first letter of own name