

Ages and developmental stages for children's literacy – Sue Palmer

Daily experiences for children 0-7 years	How they build sound foundations for literacy	Why they work
Children's, self-chosen, active, creative play (as often as possible, outdoors)	All –round bodily coordination and control; visual discrimination; problem-solving skills, and much more...	Play is children's inborn learning drive, and develops their motivation to learn
Moving to music, singing songs, chanting rhymes	Auditory discrimination and memory, and many other abilities that underpin literacy	Music and song come naturally to human beings so they're great fun for children
Opportunities to talk about events/items of interest	Development of spoken language and listening skills	Talk is the key way in which adults pass on knowledge and children consolidate their understanding
Sharing stories and picture books (favourite ones over and over again)	Vocabulary development, auditory memory and listening skills, familiarity with narrative patterns, understanding of 'how books work'	We are 'a storying animal' so children love stories – and sharing them with beloved adults is a deeply satisfying emotional experience
Opportunities for mark-making, painting, drawing, etc.	Motor control, hand-eye coordination, symbolic representation	Children long to communicate and make their mark on the world
Opportunities to see adults reading and writing by hand , for real-life purposes	Understanding of why literacy is important in daily life, and how it's done	Mimicry is a vital learning drive. Children copy the behaviour of the adults they love and admire

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