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Early Literacy Helps Build the Foundation for Lifelong Learning

Reading with young children may seem simple, but it plays a major role in how they learn and grow. Early literacy skills begin developing long before a child enters school, and the experiences children have early in life can shape how they approach learning for years to come.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, early literacy is built through everyday interactions such as talking, reading, singing, writing, and playing. These simple activities help children develop vocabulary, listening skills, and an understanding of language. Children who are regularly exposed to books and conversations tend to develop stronger communication skills before entering school. Even infants benefit from hearing words and looking at pictures in books. These early experiences help develop important brain connections that support learning later in life.

Parents and caregivers do not need special materials or complicated lessons to support literacy. Reading together for a few minutes each day, asking children questions about pictures in books, and encouraging storytelling can make a meaningful difference.

Helping children develop early literacy skills not only prepares them for school but also helps create a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Ready to learn more or register for a workshop? Contact Michelle Broxterman, Family and Child Development Extension Agent, at mbroxterman@ksu.edu or (620)724-8233 to get started.

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