



**Ready, Set, Kindergarten!** is a special six-session series designed for children ages 3 to 5 and participating parents or caregivers. Families enjoy stories and activities designed to encourage the development of early learning practices. Exploring literacy, science and math through music, stories, art and play will help you and your child get ready for school!

To learn how you can participate in Ready, Set, Kindergarten! visit [bklynlib.org/rsk](http://bklynlib.org/rsk).

**#readyssetkindergarten**



**The Five Early Literacy Practices:** Reading, writing, singing, talking and playing are great ways to develop language and literacy skills that will help get your child ready for school and to read!

Visit [bklynlib.org/rsktips](http://bklynlib.org/rsktips) for more early literacy tips and activities.

Download our Early Literacy Calendar to track your weekly progress at [bklynlib.org/rskcalendar](http://bklynlib.org/rskcalendar).

Ready, Set, Kindergarten is a project of BPL's First Five Years initiative which is made possible through support by from the New York City Council as part of City's First Readers; Robin Hood Foundation; The Pinkerton Foundation; Harold and Colene Brown Family Foundation; Hamond Family Foundation and Terry Mansky; Andrea R. Bozzo & John Martinez; Lucille Strider and Robert Myrstad in memory of Adam Strider; Sagalyn Family Fund; and Ellen Freudenheim & Daniel Wiener. Support is also provided by the Brooklyn Eagles—a group of young and engaged Brooklyn Public Library supporters.

# Ready, Set, Kindergarten!

## Get Ready to Read at the Library



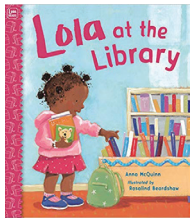
**Bklyn**  
Public Library

# Six Ways to Encourage Early Literacy Skills

## 1 Encourage the Love of Reading

Reading together every day is a great way to encourage a love of reading! Choose books with funny characters and books that reflect your child's life and experiences. Let your child pick books that appeal to them. Select a time of day that works for your family and read together to increase vocabulary, background knowledge and narrative skills.

### Suggested Books



**Lola at the Library**, by Anna McQuinn

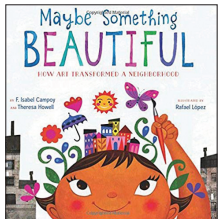
**Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus**, by Mo Willems

**How do Dinosaurs Go to School?** By Jane Yolen

## 2 Support Early Writing

Scribbling and drawing are important precursors to writing. These and other fine motor activities help develop the small muscles in the hand needed for writing. Sing the alphabet song, or go on a letter hunt in your neighborhood to help develop letter knowledge and print awareness. Label the parts of your children's drawings to help them understand the connection between ideas and print.

### Suggested Books



**Maybe Something Beautiful**, by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell

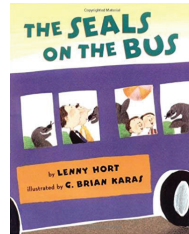
**Chalk**, by Bill Thompson

**What If?** by Samantha Berger

## 3 Sing & Rhyme Together

Singing is a great way to learn new words and concepts. Songs introduce new vocabulary words, which help children with reading comprehension later. Singing slows down language so that children hear the smaller sounds in words, which helps them sound out words when they are learning to read. Clap along to the rhythm to help your child hear syllables, and rhyme together to help them learn letter sounds.

### Suggested Books



**The Seals on the Bus** by Lenny Hort

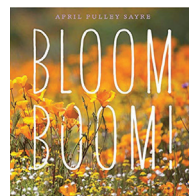
**Tap Tap Boom Boom** by Elizabeth Bluemle

**Row, Row, Row Your Boat**, by Jane Cabrera

## 4 Explore Their Interests

You can promote a love of reading by encouraging children to explore their interests through books. If your child is interested in dinosaurs, visit the non-fiction section to learn as much as you can on the topic. Be sure to explore other genres like poetry, biographies, fairy tales and more! When children are engaged in a topic, they are naturally curious and want to learn more. Your librarian can help you find books on topics your child will love.

### Suggested Books



**Bloom Bloom**, by April Pulley Sayre

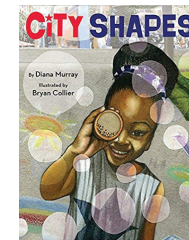
**Tap the Magic Tree**, by Christie Matheson

**Night Animals**, by Gianna Marino

## 5 Play to Learn

Give your child lots of chances for free play during the day. Play encourages them to learn new vocabulary and to express themselves using oral language. Support their play by describing what they are doing, and asking open-ended questions. Play helps children think symbolically, which can help them learn to recognize letters, and understand math concepts!

### Suggested Books



**City Shapes**, by Diana Murray

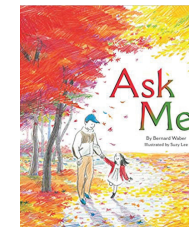
**Round is a Tortilla**, by Roseanne Greenfield Thong

**A Feast for 10**, by Cathryn Falwell

## 6 Talk Together

Engage in rich conversations daily to help your child learn new words and concepts. Stretch their vocabulary by adding language and asking open-ended questions to your conversations. Talk to your children about what you read together. Take turns telling original stories, or re-telling favorite stories you've read.

### Suggested Books



**Ask Me**, by Bernard Waber

**Float**, by Daniel Miyares

**Mix it Up**, by Herve Tullet