



Learning to read *begins* before children start school. Help your children develop early literacy skills now; this makes it easier for children to learn to read once they begin school.

Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are:



Learn how to help your child get ready to read @ your library.

Every Child Ready to Read® is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

[www.everychildreadytoread.org](http://www.everychildreadytoread.org)

# Milestones in Learning the Alphabet

## Milestones for preschool children

- Learn to sing the alphabet song.
- Understand that the alphabet song is about the shapes we call letters.
- Understand that each letter has a name.
- Recognize their name in print.
- Learn the names of the letters used in their name.
- Begin to write some of the letters in their name.

## Milestones for kindergartners

- Learn all the letters of the alphabet.
- Match uppercase and lowercase forms.
- Identify every letter in different cases and styles.
- Learn to write their first and last name.
- Begin to learn the common sounds that each letter represents, beginning with the consonants.

## Milestones for first graders

- Know all the letter names and sounds; identify them quickly and fluently.
- Master all letter-sound matches.
- Learn how to form all letters correctly.
- Learn how to arrange words in alphabetical order.

## Milestones for second graders

- Begin to master cursive letter formation so that handwriting is automatic and fast.
- Begin to spell conventionally.
- Decode unfamiliar words quickly.