

Literacy in the Environment

What is Literacy in the Environment?

A literacy-rich environment includes a generous variety of materials and experiences that are meaningful to children and support language and reading skill development. Teachers can create a language and literacy-rich environment with an intentional focus on materials and displays that encourage communication, reading, and print. Language and literacy-rich environments are beneficial for all ages of children, infants through school-age.

Why is Literacy in the Environment important?

Communication and literacy empower children to become confident learners.

Literacy is a skill needed for success in school and life.

At all ages, literacy in the environment supports and extends the development of pre-reading, reading, language, and communication skills.

A literacy-rich environment supports all four domains of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

A literacy-rich environment helps children make connections between words, pictures, and everyday experiences.

A literacy-rich environment aids in the development of self-help skills and independence.

10 Ways to Promote Language and Literacy Development in the Classroom

1. Provide easy to see and reach pictures of people, nature, and familiar objects, and talk to children about them.
2. Provide access to many different types of appropriate play materials. As children use them, ask open-ended questions about the materials and their play to encourage children to talk.
3. Read aloud, pointing to words as you read, asking questions, and discussing pictures in the book.
4. Encourage children to use books and offer to read informally when children are interested.



5. Create age-appropriate literacy related centers, such as books, listening, and writing centers.
6. Provide opportunities for children to observe their verbal communication and print being used together, such as adding a child's dictation to artwork or recording children's responses on a poster.
7. Provide opportunities for children to observe your verbal communication and print being used together, such as using handwashing signs when teaching children how to handwash.
8. Pair photos with printed words and numbers throughout the classroom, such as on material labels, names on cubbies, directions, center signs, schedules, etc.
9. Rotate displays, books, and materials according to class themes to provide opportunities for new conversations and exposure to a wide variety of print throughout the year.
10. Add materials to all centers that include print and relate to the type of play taking place in the center.

Literacy: It's not just books!

Although books are an important part of literacy, there are many opportunities throughout a classroom to add in literacy-rich examples. Any time children can pair print with photos or spoken words, they are developing literacy skills.



Child Work with Dictation



Center Signs



Printed Directions



Daily Schedule



Menus



Recipes



Labels



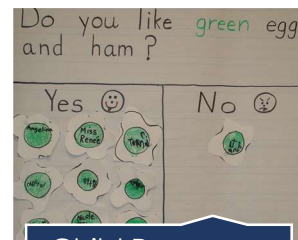
Phone List



Helper Charts



Theme Related Display



Child Response Charts