

# **Five Practices of Early Literacy**

## **Talking**

**Talking with children helps them learn oral language, one of the most critical early literacy skills. The experience of self-expression also stimulates brain development, which underlies all learning.**

## **Singing**

**Singing—which also includes rhyming—increases children’s awareness of and sensitivity to the sounds in words. This helps prepare children to decode print (written language).**

## **Reading**

**Reading together, or shared reading, remains the single most effective way to help children become proficient readers.**

## **Writing**

**Writing and reading go together. Writing helps children learn that letters and words stand for sounds and that print has meaning.**

## **Play**

**Play is one of the primary ways young children learn about the world. General knowledge is an important literacy skill that helps children understand books and stories once they begin to read.**