Your household is your child's first classroom! With a little imagination and a lot of questions, you can use everyday objects and routines to sharpen your child's literacy skills.

**In the Living Room**
Living room activities can strengthen both literacy skills and family bonds.

1. Place a wide variety of books on shelves, in baskets, and on tables, in easy reach of your child.
2. Gather as a family to tell stories, share memories, play charades, act out plays, or play board or card games.
3. Screen time is best when viewed together and used as an opportunity to discuss what you are watching.

**In the Kitchen**
For many families, the kitchen is the hub of the home. Use the hours spent here to practice literacy with your child.

1. Place magnetic words on the refrigerator to create magnetic poetry and write notes to each other.
2. Have your child practice following directions by helping you to cook or bake a complex recipe.
3. Ask your child to write up the shopping list you will bring to the grocery store.
**In the Bedroom**
The bedroom is a good place for end-of-the-day chats to discuss your child’s progress and future learning activities and ideas.

1. Demonstrate great reading habits by keeping books and magazines near the bed.
2. Encourage your child to keep a dream journal next to the bed, in easy reach for recording in the morning.
3. Bond with your child at bedtime by asking about his or her day or sharing memories from your own childhood.

**In the Laundry Room**
Whether at home or at the laundromat, doing laundry has clear-cut instructions and specific actions that use literacy skills.

1. Have your child practice following directions in order by helping you work the machines.
2. Many laundry products have several words with multiple syllables in the ingredients list. Work with your child to sound them out.
3. Sort and fold clothing with your child, creating categories by size, color, or texture for added fun.

**IN OTHER SPACES**
Take it on the go! You can practice literacy anywhere.

**At the Library**
Visiting a building devoted to books makes a great statement about the importance of literacy.

- Get your child a library card and visit regularly.
- Ask your librarian about resources or activities that can help your child learn how to use the Dewey Decimal system, an essential research skill.
- As you both look for books or other media to borrow, talk about your favorite genres, authors, or topics.

**At the Museum**
Many museums offer resources and programs designed especially for children.

- Make visits engaging with creative activities, such as having your child pretend to be a character in a painting or other display.
- Attend a program or workshop with your child. Afterward, have a discussion about what you both learned.
- Encourage your child to draw a picture, write a poem, or create a review about museums you visit.

**On the Move**
Traveling with your child by car, bus, plane, or train is a great time for literacy.

- Use travel time to talk about books or topics your child is studying. Ask questions that can’t be answered with just yes or no.
- Start a travel journal that your child can use to record any eventful trips.
- Use public transportation and road maps or atlases with your child to identify travel destinations.