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 letters, words, or notepads on the refrigerator for writing and wordplay.

2. Read cookbooks to plan meals; write shopping lists; and unpack and sort groceries while putting them away.

3. Describe kitchen tools and appliances and demonstrate how they are used.
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. *Who, what, where, when, why, and how* questions can be asked around a bedtime read-aloud.
3. Bond with your child at bedtime with read-alouds, storytelling, and dream or memory sharing.

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

1. Sorting laundry, measuring detergents, and folding clothes are ways to practice describing how things look or how things are done.
2. The machines produce sounds and motions that can inspire songs, as well as encourage observations and predictions.
3. As you sort or fold your clothing, compare and contrast the textures, colors, and sizes.

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.
- Check the library's calendar for events and workshops that your child would enjoy attending.
- As you look together for books or other media to borrow, talk about your favorite genres, authors, or topics.

**In a Store**
The supermarket is well stocked with text and images to inspire both talk and play.

- Give your child your grocery list and ask for help finding the items you need.
- Ask your child to describe the colors, scents, shapes, tastes, and textures of familiar produce.
- Give your child a store flyer and ask him or her to point out featured items as you shop.

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

- Use travel time to talk to your child. Ask what's going on and listen to the response.
- Start a travel journal that your child can use to record any eventful trips.
- Use public transportation and maps with your child to identify travel destinations.