

Checklist: Is Your Child Ready to Learn to Read?

Letter Knowledge

- Your child can recite the alphabet song.
- Your child recognizes the capital letters. If you ask your child to point to an m, he can do it.
- Your child recognizes the lowercase letters.

Print Awareness

- Your child knows the proper way to hold a book.
- Your child understands that books are read from cover to back.
- Your child understands that sentences are read from left to right.
- Your child knows that words on the page can be read.

Listening Comprehension

- Your child is able to retell a familiar story in his own words.
- Your child can answer simple questions about a story.
- Your child asks questions (*Why did the elephant laugh?*) during read-alouds.

Phonological Awareness

- Your child can rhyme. If you say *bat*, your child can come up with a rhyming word like *hat*.
- Your child understands word boundaries. If you say the sentence *Don't let the cat out*, your child is able to separate the sentence into five individual words.
- Your child can clap syllables. If you say *dog*, your child knows to clap once. If you say *umbrella*, your child knows to clap three times.
- Your child can blend sounds to make a word. If you say the sounds *sh...eep*, your child responds with the word *sheep*.
- Your child can identify the beginning sound in a word. If you ask your child to say the first sound in *pig*, your child is able to respond with the sound /p/.
- Your child can identify the ending sound in a word. If you ask your child to say the last sound in the word *jam*, your child is able to respond with the sound /m/.

Motivation to Read

Use your intuition to understand if your child is motivated to begin reading. The following are all signs that your child is motivated to read and has achieved the understanding that reading is fun.

- Does your child enjoy being read to, at least for short periods of time?
- Does your child pretend to read or write?
- Does your child frequently request read-aloud time and show a general enthusiasm for books?