

Read, Write, Grow: Boosting Literacy Skills Together

WI Facets

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Session Objectives

Understand

- the connection between communication and early literacy

Identify

- practical strategies to support early literacy development at home

Leave

- with confidence and tools to support your child's growth



Why Early Literacy Matters

Early literacy begins at birth

Early literacy builds a foundation
for future reading and writing

Language-rich environments
support brain development,
social skills, and school readiness

The Power of Communication

- Communication is the foundation of literacy
- Includes gestures, sounds, words, facial expressions
- Children communicate in many ways—every interaction is a learning opportunity



Have Meaningful Conversations

1

Pause and give your child time to respond

2

Follow their lead and interests

3

Expand on what they say: “Yes, that’s a dog! A big, brown dog.”

Talk to Your Child Often

Narrate

Narrate your day: “I’m putting on your shoes.”

Label

Label objects and feelings: “That’s a big truck!”

Use

Use clear, simple language and repeat key words.

Model Language Use

Use

Use complete sentences

Describe

Describe your actions and feelings

Repeat and
expand

Repeat and expand your child's words: "Juice?" →
"You want more juice?"

Expose Your Child to New Vocabulary Words


Words related to meaningful activities.



Provide a child friendly definition.



Practice the word in a sentence that your child will understand.



Use the word across settings/activities if possible.

Explore Your World Together

Take part in new
experiences
with your child

Discuss what
you see, hear,
smell

Find books on
the topic

**Builds
background
knowledge**

Sing Songs & Nursery Rhymes

Builds rhythm,
vocabulary,
memory

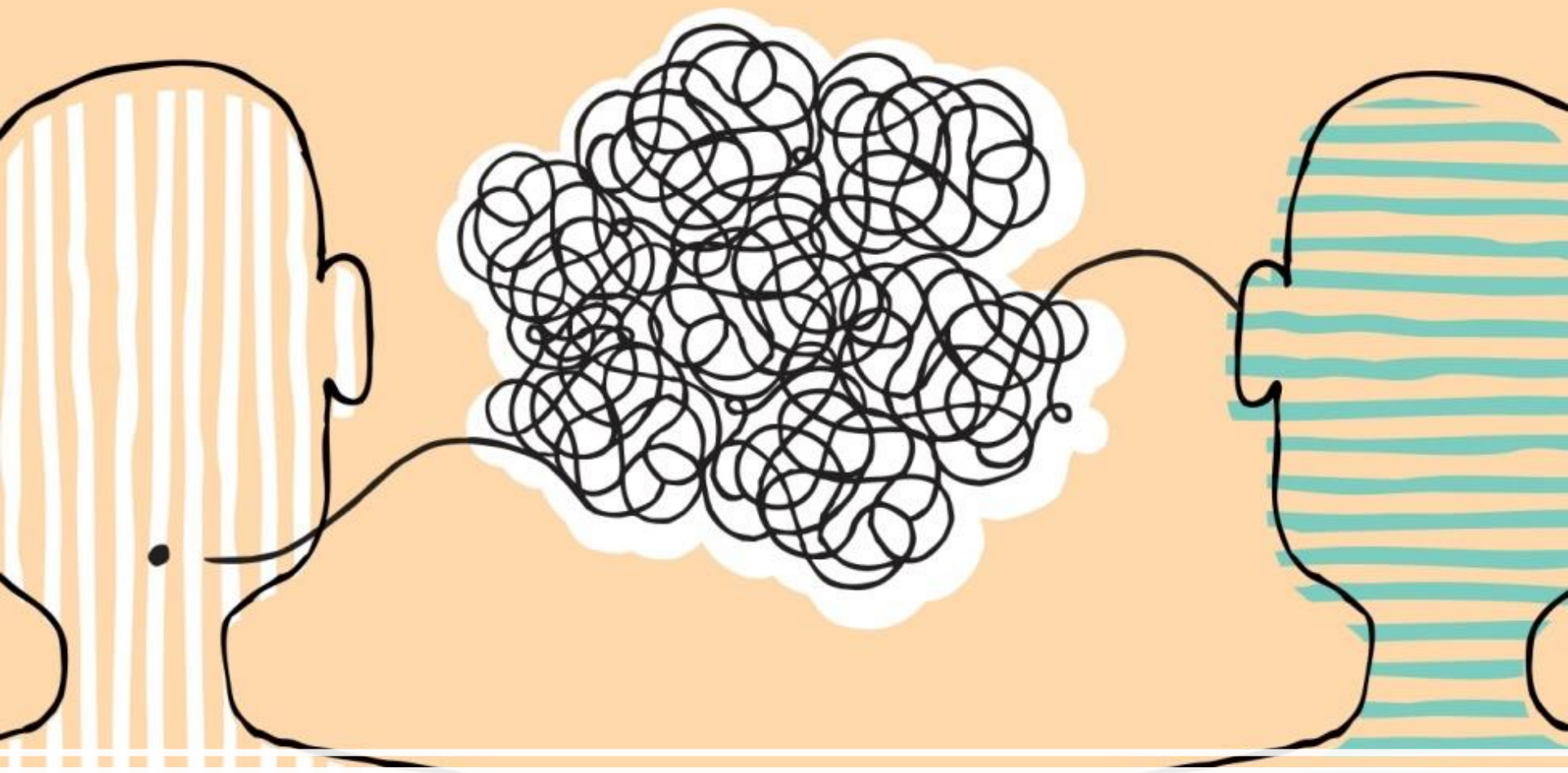
Encourages
listening and
prediction skills

Use hand motions,
repetition, and silly
sounds for
engagement



Read Books Together

- Choose books with repetition and pictures.
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Let your child turn pages, point to pictures, or finish familiar phrases.



The Power of Storytelling



**Writing is more than
letter formation!**

**It is...knowing that
thoughts and
ideas can be put
into written words**

First attempts at writing. Scribbles!
Creating a permanent record of the child's thoughts and ideas.



"This is a polar bear
in a snowstorm."

"This color
is green!"

Make Writing Playful


- Provide crayons, markers, sand, shaving cream for ‘writing’.
- Let children scribble, draw, or “write” letters.
- Praise their attempts – it builds confidence!





Joy Impacts the Developing Brain!

Every time children experience joy, the pathways in their brains that are dedicated to feeling this positive emotion grow stronger.



“Research demonstrates that developmentally appropriate play with parents and peers is a singular opportunity to promote the social-emotional, cognitive, language, and self-regulation skills that build executive function and a prosocial brain.

Play is not frivolous: it enhances brain structure and function and promotes executive function (ie, the process of learning, rather than the content), which allow us to pursue goals and ignore distractions.”

[The Power of Play: A Pediatric Role in Enhancing Development in Young Children,](#)

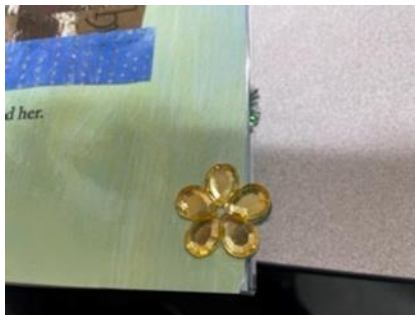
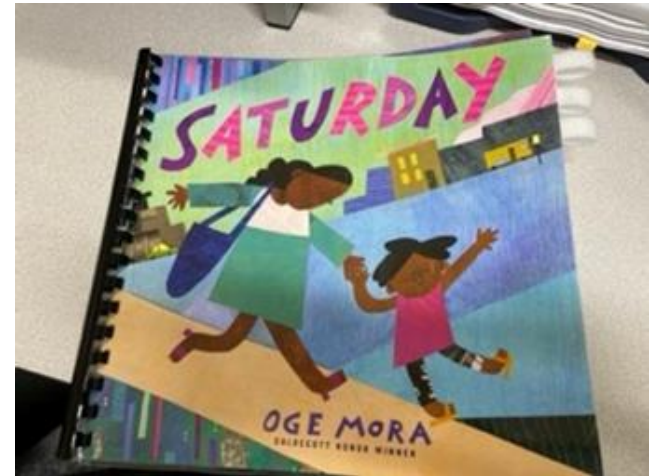
American Academy of Pediatrics, September 2018

A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

A stack of colorful wooden blocks with numbers 6, 7, 8, and 9. The blocks are in various colors: blue, pink, yellow, and green. The number 6 is on a blue block, 7 is on a blue block, 8 is on a pink block, and 9 is on a pink block. They are stacked on a white surface.

Adaptations for Children with Disabilities

- Use visuals, gestures, and AAC tools
- Add page turners on books to make it easier to turn pages
- Read aloud with expression and repetition
- Make activities multisensory (touch, sight, sound)
- Celebrate every attempt at communication





Everyday Literacy Activities

Grocery list drawing

Talking during bath time

Singing in the car

Labeling family photos

Story time before bed

Developing a Literacy Identity

A large orange circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Final Thoughts

You are your child's first and most important teacher

Small moments = big learning

Keep it fun, responsive, and supportive

Reading and writing begin with connection

Thank You!

You're making a difference
every day!

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