

# Tips for Early Language and Literacy Skills

## Suggested Ages 3 - 5



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# Vroom Tip Collection

by *The Children's Cabinet*



## Trick Rhymes

Play a rhyming game with your child. Start by saying words that rhyme, like "green," "clean," and "mean." Then say a word that doesn't rhyme, like "boat." Do they notice the word that doesn't rhyme? Help them come up with a new rhyming word. Then give them a turn to try and trick you!

**Tip #** 135

## Brainy Background

This game helps your child practice important skills like remembering, paying close attention, and being able to respond to the situation as it changes instead of reacting automatically. You're also helping your child learn to love language when you play fun word games together.

**Suggested Age** 3—5 years

## All About Me

After reading with your child, ask them questions about experiences they may have had that were similar to the characters in the story. You can ask things like, "The boy in the book felt sad. Do you remember a time when you were sad?"

**Tip #** 331

## Brainy Background

By having these conversations with your child, you're encouraging them to make connections between their own life and what they read—an important part of literacy. They're also developing their understanding of how other people think and feel.

**Suggested Age** 3—5 years

## Once Upon a Rhyme

Can you and your child tell a rhyming story together? Pick a word like "boat" and start with a sentence like, "I saw the boat float." See if they can then make another rhyme like, "The goat won't float." Then ask them to choose another word and start a new rhyming story.

**Tip #** 124

## Brainy Background

To be able to rhyme, your child has to pay careful attention to sounds, using their memory and ability to think flexibly. You're helping your child understand the connections among words, letters, and sounds, an essential step in learning how to read.

**Suggested Age** 3—5 years

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## Reading in Real Life

Does your child have favorite books? Encourage them to explore the topics in real life. If the book is about nature, hunt for interesting leaves and flowers or if it's about trucks, look for them on the street. Talk with them about what's the same or different in the book and what they see.

**Tip # 93**

## Brainy Background

When you extend your child's interest in a topic, they will be motivated to learn more on their own. You help your child make connections between what they read and their own experiences while encouraging their skills of comparing, which is important for later learning.

**Suggested Age** 3—5 years

## Snack Menu

At home, create a snack menu with your child. Give them some choices of what they want for a snack and then ask them to make a menu. Encourage them to draw, scribble, or write letters, if they can. They can take other people's orders, and even help you prepare the snack!

**Tip # 1031**

## Brainy Background

By creating and using a menu, your child is making connections between their experiences and the importance of reading and writing. You're encouraging literacy while letting them participate in a way that is meaningful, creative, and fun.

**Suggested Age** 2—5 years

## Serious Scribbling

Do you have paper, pens, or pencils? Encourage your child to write or draw and talk back and forth about what they're doing. Offer to write down what they want to say about it. Ask them to come up with a title for their writing or drawing. Finally, hang it on the wall to share with friends and family.

**Tip # 891**

## Brainy Background

Encouraging your child to make personal connections to reading and writing allows them to begin building a relationship with language and literacy. When they feel like what they say and do is important to you, they build confidence in their own ideas.

**Suggested Age** 3—5 years

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## Unpack Your Bags

After shopping, invite your child to help take items out of the bags. Give them some small, safe items to put away, giving hints for where things go, like, "Are there other cans in the cupboard that look like this one?" or "An apple is a fruit. Where do we keep the other fruit?"

**Tip #** 415

## Brainy Background

Grouping things and being able to see similarities and differences helps your child make connections, which is at the heart of learning. You're also building their memory in fun ways while encouraging them to help out!

**Suggested Age** 3—4 years

## Daily Do-Over

Bedtime is a great time to look back on all the fun you and your child packed into the day. So tonight, ask them what the favorite parts of their day were—like stepping in a puddle or popping bubbles at bath-time. Then share yours with them—they will love hearing about your day!

**Tip #** 306

## Brainy Background

By reflecting on your day together, you're helping your child build their vocabulary and memory skills. And by sharing an event from your day you're giving them a peek into the world of adults.

**Suggested Age** 3—5 years



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