

## HE ROLE OF PARENT-CHILD READING IN BUILDING LITERACY SKILLS

*by:*

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"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." – Emilie Buchwald

Parent-child reading is fundamental to early literacy growth, cultivating essential abilities that lay the groundwork for lifelong education. When parents read aloud to their kids, they introduce them to the rhythm, structure, and significance of language in a captivating and interactive manner. This collaborative activity exposes children to fresh vocabulary, narrative frameworks, and phonemic awareness – essential elements of early literacy. Consistent access to books at home fosters a print-rich setting that ignites interest in reading and enhances language growth. Research shows that children who are regularly read to in their formative years display enhanced language abilities and are more equipped for educational challenges.

A key advantage of parent-child reading is the enhancement of phonological awareness, which refers to the capability to identify and modify sounds in verbal language. This ability is a vital indicator of reading achievement. In reading sessions, parents can highlight rhyming words, syllables, and letter sounds, assisting children in linking spoken and written language. Additionally, reading together fosters print awareness – recognizing that words on a page convey meaning and proceed from left to right. These essential skills, when cultivated in early childhood, equip children with the abilities required to accurately interpret and understand written material.

In addition to developing literacy abilities, reading together enhances a passion for literature and fosters a constructive outlook on education. When mothers and fathers tell

stories, kids link reading with affection, solace, and bonding. This emotional connection enhances motivation and involvement, encouraging children to seek out reading on their own as they mature. Engaging reading techniques, like posing open-ended questions or prompting children to anticipate results, enhance the experience, fostering critical thinking and deeper understanding.

Reading together as a parent and child bridges cultural and generational divides, providing chances to exchange values, traditions, and personal experiences. Books act as a tool for parents to present various viewpoints, promoting empathy and comprehension. This comprehensive method enhances literacy abilities while also fostering emotional intelligence and cognitive growth. By investing time in shared reading, parents create a foundation for their children's educational achievement and foster a lasting passion for reading.

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