How reading books fosters language development around the world

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Abstract

Research on literacy development is increasingly making clear the centrality of oral language to long-term literacy development, with longitudinal studies revealing the continuity between language ability in the preschool years and later reading. The language competencies that literacy builds upon begin to emerge as soon as children begin acquiring language; thus, the period between birth and age three also is important to later literacy. Book reading consistently has been found to have the power to create interactional contexts that nourish language development. Researchers, pediatricians, and librarians have taken notice of the potential for interventions designed to encourage parents to read with their children. This article reviews research on the connections between language and later reading, environmental factors associated with language learning, and interventions developed in varied countries for encouraging book use by parents of young children.
Stages of Language Development

Prenatal Development

Infants' Preverbal Communication

Crying

Cooing

Babbling

How Adults Foster Language Development

Child-Directed Speech

Shared Attention, Gestures, and Sign Language

Toddlers' Development of Words and Sentences

Growth of Vocabulary

ACTIVE LEARNING: Using Linguistic Constraints.

Research on literacy development is increasingly making clear the centrality of oral language to long-term literacy development, with longitudinal studies revealing the continuity between language ability in the preschool years and later reading. The language competencies that literacy builds upon begin to emerge as soon as children begin acquiring language; thus, the period between birth and age three also is important to later literacy. Share Source: How Reading Books...