

# Basic Foundations

## Three to Five — English/Language Arts

Speaking and listening are the foundation skills for reading and writing.  
(National Center on Education and the Economy, 2001)



### Reading

Young children are learning when they —

- \* Pretend to read a book— understanding how to read a book is the first step in reading.
- \* Tell something that a favorite character does in a story—being able to retell parts of a story helps a child develop comprehension.
- \* Watch and listen to a story from beginning to end—prior to starting school, a child needs to develop good listening skills to excel as a learner.



Adults are being supportive when they —

- \* Model reading and writing for different purposes—you can teach a child about reading by introducing them to other printed materials; newspapers, magazines, recipes and food labels.
- \* Provide the child with a wide range of books and appropriate printed materials—by reading both fiction and non-fiction, a child learns about many different types of characters and stories.
- \* Encourage the child to discuss what has been read—comprehension is an important part of reading.

Websites for Fun and Ideas—

[www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)

[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

[www.literacycenter.net](http://www.literacycenter.net)

[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

[www.literacy.net](http://www.literacy.net)



Based on the  
FOUNDATIONS to the Indiana Academic Standards  
for Young Children from Birth to Age 5  
Developed by the Indiana Department of Education  
and Family and Social Services Administration,  
Division of Family Resources, Bureau of Child Care

Adapted by  
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