

# Early Childhood



## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EARLY CHILDHOOD?



Early Childhood is the time period between birth and five years when a child usually begins formalized education. Studies suggest that high-quality activities for skill development are particularly important when children are three and four years of age.

## WHAT DOES SCIENCE SAY?



At this level, children do not yet know how to read, but they should be developing key skills that will help them when they do learn to read. Researchers agree that encouraging children to talk, as well as parents to read, and to talk a lot with them (to learn words, rhymes, songs labeling colors and letters, etc.) is extremely important.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few examples of free, level-appropriate, research-informed resources that target the development of specific skills.

### TALK

The [Rhyme Pocket Pairs](#) is a great activity developed by the [Florida Center for Reading Research](#). This activity will introduce children to phonological awareness and rhyming, requiring them to pick out pictures of words that rhyme.

### READ

The [Southport Colab](#) offers great read-aloud books and related activities introducing important concepts like colors, numbers and letters. We particularly like the [Three Little Pigs](#) one!

## More resources

You can find many more resources like these in the [Resource Library](#) of the [Haskins Global Literacy Hub](#). All resources are FREE and VETTED by literacy experts. Resources are appropriate for children in general education, special education, with learning disabilities or other special needs. Resources are organized by levels and by types of reading skills.

*The Haskins Global Literacy Hub is an international interdisciplinary collaboration of researchers, educators, and education technology specialists, working to improve language and literacy outcomes for children at risk for reading difficulties across languages and cultures.*