



Emergent Literacy Checklist

Literacy begins at birth.

Does your child (0-5 years) have the skills needed to learn to read?

To refer to Wee Talk, the Preschool Speech and Language Service System, please call Kids Line at [1-800-265-7293](tel:1-800-265-7293) x 3616

Check off the items your child does. If your child does not do one or more items by the end of each age group please call [Kids Line](#) to refer to Wee Talk for an Emergent Literacy Skills Screening.

Birth to 18 months (Birth to 1.5 years)

- Happily shares books with caregiver every day.
- Looks at pictures in books.
- Points to pictures and looks at caregiver to talk about or name pictures.
- Copies the rhythm or action of a nursery rhyme or song.
- Sees printed materials at home such as cereal boxes and grocery lists.
- Enjoys trying new activities and hears new words about the activity.
- Makes sounds and plays with sounds.
- Holds onto crayon and scribbles.

18 to 30 months (1.5 to 2.5 years)

- Holds books and shows an interest in hearing them over and over and over again.
- Names pictures.
- Begins to repeat some nursery rhymes and parts of favourite books.
- Knows and repeats parts of songs.
- Begins to make lines, circles and other shapes when scribbling.



Emergent Literacy Checklist continued...

Literacy begins at birth.

To refer to Wee Talk, the Preschool Speech and Language Service System, please call Kids Line at [1-800-265-7293](tel:1-800-265-7293) x 3616

30 to 48 months (2.5 to 4 years)

- Knows the front of a book and turns pages to see story.
- Understands the meaning of stop signs, some store signs and some packaging.
- Understands that words are made up of letters and have meaning.
- Recognizes own printed name.
- Retells beginning, middle and end of a story using sentences.
- Uses story words such as “once upon a time”, or “the end”, and fills in familiar parts.
- Begins to talk about events that have happened, are happening, or will happen.
- Listens to stories for five to fifteen minutes.
- Knows the sounds for five letters.
- Enjoys rhyming and matching sounds.
- Claps or taps the beat of a word.
- Scribbles begin to look like letters or numbers.
- Copies simple lines and shapes.
- Identifies letters in his or her name.

48 to 60 months (4 to 5 years)

- Chooses books of interest.
- Recites a story while looking at a book.
- Uses imagination to make up or retell a story.
- Asks questions and talks about a story.
- Tries to spell words.
- Prints own name.
- Asks what words or stories say.
- Picks words out of a story.
- Holds pencil using three fingers.