5 Pre-literacy activities to do everyday with your child

Read
Aim for 20 minutes a day! It doesn't have to be all at once. It could be a book in the morning, one during bath time and one before bed. Sign up for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten reading challenge and help your child get kindergarten ready. Visit the Kids Zone on our website for more information.

Sing
Make up a silly song about getting the mail, bath time, or any other activity you do with your child.

Play
Never underestimate the power of play! This is how children learn.

Talk
When you're completing any daily task, explain it to your child in as much detail as possible.

Write
Practice fine motor control by helping your child draw letters and shapes with their finger.

All KCPL locations offer a variety of engaging programs for children of all ages. Check our website for details.
What are OWL bags?
OWL bags are an early literacy initiative developed by KCPL to introduce children to books and reading at an early age. Board books are great for babies because they are easy to hold, sturdy, do not tear and are easy to clean.

How do they work?
OWL bags are designed for convenience; parents can grab an OWL bag pre-packed with 10 board books. When done, return the bag and grab another one filled with 10 more books!

Why read to your child?
- Increases parental bond. Your child is soothed by your voice.
- Increases vocabulary. The more words a baby is exposed to, the better prepared he is to start reading on his own.
- Generates response. Your child will respond to your voice with arms, legs, and facial movement.
- Introduces emotion. Your baby learns about feelings through the different sounds and tones you use when reading.
- Exposure to visuals. Your child will begin to recognize shapes, letters and colors.

Tips for reading aloud:
- Make your voice higher or lower where appropriate. Use different voices for different characters.
- Ask questions or make comments on the pictures or text while reading. Your child might not be able to respond yet, but this lays the groundwork for later.
- Babies love (and learn from) repetition, so don't be afraid to read the same books many times.

About the OWL Card:
- Free for anyone age 18 and older.
- Separate from a normal KCPL library card.
- Sign up for an OWL card regardless of the status of your normal KCPL card.
- Keep the OWL bag and books for up to a year.