



# 5 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S READING BRAIN!



Children develop deeper thinking skills by exploring their world in different ways. The big five activities below deepen thinking skills and help children gather the early experiences that help them become strong readers!



## Read

Exploring books together, early and often, is the single most important thing we can do to help children become strong readers. Books are like windows to the world, providing a chance to hear new words, learn about our world and see how reading works in action! Keep books where your children can see and reach them on their own!



## Play

Play is the natural way that children learn, and the best way to nurture their natural curiosity and imagination. When we play, we put information about our world into action - exploring and experimenting to better understand new things! After reading, act out parts of the story!



## Talk

Back and forth conversations help us learn and practice new words! Encourage your child to talk by asking questions and responding to what your child says. After asking a question, silently count to ten to give them plenty of time to think and respond.



## Write

Making marks and scribbles when we are small is a building block for writing later! It helps children understand that reading and writing both represent spoken language, and as we grow, opportunities to write help us understand how language is organized visually. When drawing, encourage your child to practice writing their name by reminding them that all artists sign their work! For smaller children, finger painting, scratching a stick in dirt, or making things with your hands are great ways to develop the fine motor skills that we use to write!



## Connect

Making connections between what we read and the real world builds background knowledge that we use to understand new things! Tell your child when you notice something in your world or your lives that connects to, or reminds you of, a story you read together. For example, after reading a story about outer space, go outside to look at the night sky. Talk about how we can see things from our books in real life!