

# Family Fun Literacy Tips

March is Literacy Month! Here are a few fun things to do with your children!

## Traveling:



\*See if you can find all of the letters of their name. (Look at restaurant signs, road signs, license plates, etc.)

\*Listen to books on tape.

\*Keep a few books in the car; rotate them often!

## Meals/Cooking:



\*Look at recipes and cookbooks together.

\*Talk about the way food tastes, feels, smells, etc.

\*Have your child help make a grocery list. Talk about what you might need to make a certain recipe or a favorite meal.

## Bath Time:



\*Make up stories about their bath tub toys.

\*Buy or make letters and shapes out of sponges.

## Play time:



\*Make your own books! Take scrap paper and staple together. Encourage your child to draw pictures and you can write the words to the story they tell you.

\*Act out a favorite story. Make props or scenery to go along with the story.

## Around the House:



\*Let your child help you with the laundry. Sort by colors, talk about how different clothes feel.

\*Have them help you clip coupons. Talk about the words or pictures.

## Outside:



\*Look for letters, shapes, symbols, or pictures in nature.

\*Take a nature walk. Talk about the things you see.

# Month of the Young Child ®

Each April, Michigan celebrates Month of the Young Child. This is a time when communities and individuals recognize the needs and rights of young children and their families. Since 1971, one week in April has been celebrated nationally as Week of the Young Child. In 1985, Michigan expanded the celebration to the entire month of April, with each week having a specific focus.

## **Week One: April 1-10: Social Emotional Development**

- Responding lovingly - smiling, holding, cuddling - helps build trusting relationships.
- Talk with and listen to children with genuine interest and respect.
- Focus on the positive; thank children for sharing, helping, cooperating.
- Set reasonable limits children can learn and depend on.

## **Week Two: April 11-17: Cognitive Development**

- 95% of information received comes to us through vision, touch and hearing.
- Positive feelings trigger the release of endorphins, which enhance the functioning of brain connections.
- The brain needs to be properly hydrated in order to be alert; only water provides proper hydration. Check with your physician for appropriate water intake for children under two.
- Offer information to young children in small doses and increase the amount as they show understanding.

## **Week Three: April 18-24: Physical Development**

- Healthy babies should sleep on their backs.
- Well-balanced meals support growth and development.
- Exercise and fresh air enhance well-being.
- Safe, secure environments support exploration which helps develop muscles and motor skills.

## **Week Four: April 25-30: Language and Literacy**

- Make time to read with your child each and every day.
- Read it again, and again, and again - children delight in the familiar and knowing what comes next.
- Talk to and with your child so they can learn about the sounds, rhythms and purpose of language.
- Talk about everyday print, read signs and point out letters and words so children learn the importance of written communication.

*Courtesy of [www.miaeyc.org/moyc.htm](http://www.miaeyc.org/moyc.htm)*