

Parent Information

Research shows that reading 30 minutes a day with a child can impact their life forever. When parents read with their children, it creates a positive impact for their child that creates avenues for success in school and in the community.

How Can You Help?

- Volunteer at your child's school
- Donate gently used books from your home library
- Get your child(ren) a library card and take frequent trips
- Download the Libby and Hoopla Apps (More info below)
- Host a book club for your child's classmates
- Make sure to have access to your child's clever account and utilize ARC Bookshelf
- Participate in free community activities and events related to literacy
- "I read, you read" -- Show your kids that you read too!! Your excitement will excite them.

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS.

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more, and more rapidly, than at any other time in life. While genetics play a significant role, scientific research has made clear that the quality of a child's experiences in the first few years of life - positive or negative - helps shape how their brain develops. These experiences have a lasting impact on their health and ability to learn and succeed in school and in life.

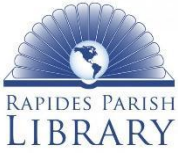
A study done by First Things First discovered that at birth, the average baby's brain is about a quarter of the size of the average adult brain. Incredibly, it doubles the size in the first year and keeps growing to about 80% of adult size by age 3 and 90% - nearly full grown- by age 5.

helpmegrown.org says that reading is one of the best ways to promote a child's brain development. Even before he/she can recognize letters or words, reading kick starts with language and communication skills. Hearing words and seeing pictures connects the two in a child's mind. Repeating the same books further builds recognition between the words you speak and the images on the page. As a child grows, ask him/her to point to specific pictures on the page like "Where is the dog?"

To learn more about early brain development, visit

<https://www.pbs.org/video/first-things-first-early-childhood-brain-development-pb5xj3/>

Free Resources!



The Rapides Parish Library brings learning to life for young readers with the database that encourages exploration and engagement. There are hundreds of fun activities, thousands of continually-updated encyclopedia articles, and a wealth of vetted articles. Visit www.rpl.org for all of their information.

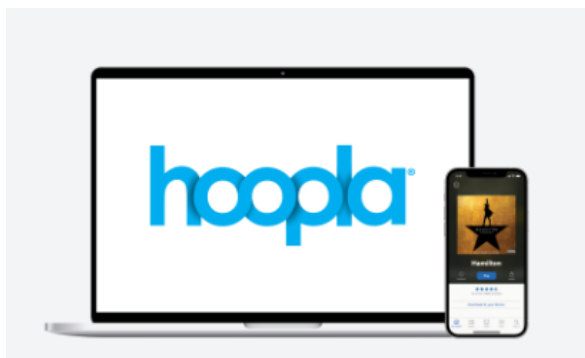


Download Libby today!



Have a Kindle Fire tablet? [Learn how to install Libby.](#)

You can get a virtual library card from your phone or computer and then use Libby to borrow digital copies of books (or audiobooks) and enjoy them from your device.



card on hoopla

Check out digital books for free with your library



Free app or website with children's books



<https://www.teachyourmonster.org/>

With the help of friendly monsters, playful design and out-of-this-world storytelling, we work with leading academics to create beautifully crafted games kids love to play. Trusted by teachers and parents, our innovative products aim to engage even the most reluctant of learners.



<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

games and videos to help with reading skills for all students, K-12.

Sign up for free



Word Wagon by Duck Duck Moose 4+

Preschool Fun with Letters!

Duck Duck Moose LLC

★★★★★ 4.3 • 20 Ratings

Free

Word Wagon takes kids on a reading journey! Through fun activities, kids will learn reading fundamentals like letters, phonics, sight words, spelling, and more! Word Wagon is a fun, award-winning app teaching letters, phonics and spelling. Based on Common Core State Standards kids will learn letter names, sounds and spelling of 4 and 6 letter words. AGES: 2-6.

OVERVIEW

4 Levels for Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade:

- Level 1: Letters – learn the names of the letters
- Level 2: Phonics – learn the sounds of the letters
- Level 3: Spelling I – spell words up to four letters
- Level 4: Spelling II – spell words up to six letters

ACTIVITIES

- LEARN letters, words and phonics
- PLAY with Mozzarella the Mouse and his best friend Coco the bird
- COLLECT stickers. Earn colorful stickers for each word in a sticker book. Touch the animated stickers to hear funny sounds.
- EARN stars. Use the stars to make different constellations, which are shaped like animals. Mozzarella the mouse will dress up as an astronaut and float in space!
- DISCOVER interactive surprises like playing hide and seek, dressing up as a ghost and drawing pictures with Mozzarella the Mouse and Coco

<https://www.readingrockets.org/literacyapps>