

## Practice early reading skills using the special page format.

The special page format is designed to enhance the opportunity for children to practice key skills in their reading development. The chart below highlights 4 specific skills that are fundamental building blocks required to produce a new reader. Along with the story text in black at the bottom of each story scene there are letters in blue on the left and words in red on the right as a quick and handy reference to practice some of these skills.

**Use their current ability as a guide to focus on the appropriate skills to practice.**

## 4 Building Blocks Of Reading - With Suggested Reading Skills Activities

### Oral Language Development

Speaking aloud and expressing ideas and thoughts builds oral language skills and provides an essential foundation for the development of reading.

#### Suggested Activities

- look through the story letting the child talk and tell about the pictures using their own words
- encourage, listen and actively respond to the child's own words, thoughts and ideas
- prompt for more oral discussion and detail with questions and rephrasing their words and ideas
- take turns talking about the action and what the players and fans might be feeling, thinking and saying

### Letter and Sound Recognition

An essential pre-reading skill is recognizing all the letters (upper and lower case) of the alphabet and the sounds that they make.

#### Suggested Activities

- together point to each blue letter, name and make the sound of each letter in the alphabet
- explain letters have a lower case (small) symbol and upper case (big) symbol
- name a letter, the sound it makes and then have your child point to it (take turns making it a fun game)
- identify a letter and see if it can be found in a red word on the left and in the story (letters make words)

### Building Word Vocabulary

An important reading skill development is the ability to visually identify words, to recognize the grouping of letters and to remember the word meaning.

#### Suggested Activities

- point to and say a red word, name each letter and their sounds that group to make each word
- point to and read a red word and then let your child find it in the story sentence (take turns making it a game)
- take turns pointing to and reading aloud each red word from the top to bottom in order
- point to a red word, have your child say the word and explain its meaning (make a sentence with the word)

### Reading Fluency and Comprehension

Developing the ability to read words accurately and understand their meaning at the same time produces a fluent and competent reader.

#### Suggested Activities

- read the story together, develop a rhythm and use the rhyme to create and model a natural reading fluency
- ask questions about the action and events to check for memory and understanding
- discuss the thinking, emotions and feelings of the many players and spectators watching the game
- talk about team work, fair-play and sportsmanship, allowing your child to express their feelings and ideas

**Find a good balance between working with your child's current abilities and challenging them to learn!**

**Please support the literacy development of your child.**