



### Did you know?

Your child's attention is growing. They are interested in real life and pretend stories.

At 3 years your child is becoming curious about 'why' things happen.

Your child is developing a sense of humour. They are learning what makes sense.

Your child's sentences are getting longer (up to 5 words).

Reading books greatly expands vocabulary.

You can prepare hands for writing through drawing, painting, gluing and cutting.

### What can you do now?

Help your child to think deeply about story meanings.

Ask why things happened and what else might happen.

Asking questions is how children learn more about their world. Take time to explain and give reasons.

Encourage problem solving by playing together with puzzles and games.

When you go out, talk about common signs and symbols that you see.

Sing action songs that involve listening to and following more instructions.

Develop hand skills using balls, sand, playdough, brushes, sticky tape, beads, tongs and building toys.

Consider taking your child to playgroup, preschool or a child care centre for social opportunities to learn, play, and explore.

### Who can help?

Family and friends.

Your local doctor, community nurse or worker.

Staff at preschool, child care centre or playgroup and children's librarians.

Early Words website — [www.earlywords.info](http://www.earlywords.info)

If you have concerns about your child's development, ask your doctor, community nurse or early childhood teacher for further ideas.

**Look out for** more tips when your child is 4 years old.

## **Early Literacy and School Readiness**

The following are areas that will help your child with a good start for early literacy at school

Your child will develop more of these skills in the next two years.

Please note this is a guide and not a checklist.

### **Attention and concentration skills**

- Hearing
- Vision
- Listening to speech
- Understanding spoken information and instructions
- Recognise rhyming words
- Speaking (using words, sentences and conversations)
- Asking and answering questions
- Talking with clear pronunciation
- Recognising the difference between words and pictures
- Understanding how books work,
- Drawing and attempting to write (eg own name)
- Knowing alphabet letters have names and sounds
- Knowing the difference between letters and numbers
- Problem solving, curiosity and deeper thinking
- Confidence and emotional readiness for trying new things
- Independence and self help skills
- Coordinating, balancing and strength for whole body movements
- Using fingers and hands precisely

For more information about each of these areas please see the Early Words 3 to 5 years DVD, ask your community nurse, GP or child care teacher.

Visit our website [www.earlywords.info](http://www.earlywords.info)