

Everyday Literacy Moments

There are literacy learning opportunities all around us! These four quick strategies can be used to turn everyday moments (driving, picking up groceries, dinner conversations) into learning opportunities. You don't need a lesson plan or specific materials. Small moments add up, especially when you follow your child's curiosity!

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STRATEGY #1

The Power of Words

Choosing your words. Help your child build their toolkit of words. Have fun finding “just the right word” and learning new ones.

- 1 Pick some text, like a menu, recipe, or label.
- 2 Notice how things are described and how words are chosen. Talk about what you find!
- 3 Try adding, removing, or changing a word. Discuss how the meaning of the text changes.

Example: Read your child's favorite meal on a menu. Ask: how would they change a word to make it sound more appealing?



Tip! When you encounter a new word, use context clues to guess its meaning.

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STRATEGY #2

Always Ask Questions

Follow your curiosity. Encourage your child to ask questions and find answers. Talk about different types of questions (yes/no questions, open-ended questions). Discuss when to ask follow-up questions, how to ask them, and who might be able to help answer them.

- 1 Wonder aloud about something around you.
- 2 Work with your child to create a specific question and search for the answer together.
- 3 Talk about what you learned. Did you ask the right question? Do you have any more?

Try This! Teach your child that it's okay to write down a question and come back to it later! Model this by keeping a list of your questions in a shared location.



STRATEGY #3

Engage with Text

Understanding text around you. Help your child identify different types of messages around them, like ads, movie posters, menus, instructions, or news articles.

- 1 Find some text “in the wild” and read it together.
- 2 Talk about what you read. Is it trying to inform, entertain, or persuade you? How do you know?
- 3 Discuss the facts and opinions in the text. Are they correct? Do you agree with them?



Try this! Look for text while you're driving. You can talk about road signs, billboards, and bumper stickers! Ask about the audience, whether the information is helpful, and new words.

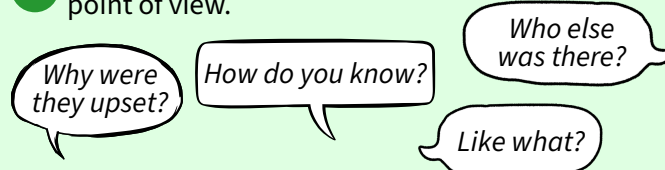


STRATEGY #4

Narrating Your World

Share the full picture. Use everyday conversations to help your child explain events. This skill supports storytelling and explanations in different subjects.

- 1 Ask your child to describe an event or their day.
- 2 Prompt them with specific follow-up questions.
- 3 Ask them to retell the story from someone else's point of view.



Tip! If your child needs support, offer sentence starters or give them choices to respond to.