

6. Ready for Reading at Toronto Public Library

Ready for Reading is Toronto Public Library's full set of programs, services and resources for children from birth to five years of age. *Ready for Reading* emphasizes the importance of early literacy and helps parents and caregivers learn how to develop six important pre-reading skills in their children.

Six pre-reading skills

1. **Print motivation (I like books!)**
Being interested in and enjoying books
2. **Phonological awareness (I hear words!)**
Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words
3. **Vocabulary (I know words!)**
Knowing the names of things
4. **Narrative skills (I can tell a story!)**
Being able to describe things and events and tell stories
5. **Print awareness (I see words!)**
Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, knowing how to follow the words on a page
6. **Letter awareness (I see letters!)**
Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their name and sounds, recognizing letters everywhere

Why is early literacy important?

For many years, scientists have presented compelling evidence that a child's success in school is linked directly with the acquisition of early literacy skills. The relationship between the skills with which children enter school and their later academic performance is striking. Children's success in life depends on their success in school.

Preschool activity sheet

Staff is encouraged to plan and adapt their TD Summer Reading Club activities to include *Ready for Reading* principles and approaches for children five years and under by using the TD SRC Preschool activity sheet found in the Forms section of the Staff Manual.

Ready for Reading online

kidsspace.torontopubliclibrary.ca/preschoolers

Academic research on reading readiness

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/ECRR/researcha/Research.htm>