Literacy At Home

Reading, cooking together, telling stories and starting conversations – it all promotes literacy and language development. Allowing plenty of time for imaginary play is key. You can create an environment that promotes language and literacy by doing the following with your child:

• Have lots of books, crayons, pens, paper, envelopes, tape, glue and magazines on hand. It encourages creativity and language development.

• Make up stories about family photos. Take lots of pictures and put them in a scrapbook with captions describing your adventures.

• Make a game out of grocery shopping: You and your child can draw or cut pictures of food items from magazines. Write the name of the item on the back of each picture, and cut them into cards. The cards can be handed out while shopping and your child can find a match.

• Whether riding in the car or washing the dishes, some of the most interesting conversations happen during everyday tasks. Encourage these interactions.

• Rhyming cards and posters: Write out nursery rhymes with your child and decorate the cards or posters. What kind of rhymes can you come up with?

• Encourage scribbling and pretend writing. Help your child form letters and words. Have him tell you a story as you write the words. This allows your child to make a connection between spoken and written words.

• Encourage your child to use materials such as grocery receipts, coupons, empty food boxes, junk mail and old greeting cards during play. Magnetic letters, puzzles and stamps are also useful.

-NWT Literacy Council
http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/famlit/howtokit/activnt2/activnt2.pdf
-North Central Regional Educational Library
http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/content/cntareas/reading/li1lk39.htm