



Learning at an Early Age

How important are the early years for learning?

Families often have questions about what they can do to help their child learn. Here are some frequently asked questions (Q) and answers (A).



Q. How does my child learn best?

A. A child learns in the context of the real world. Talk to your child about what s/he sees and what is interesting to them. It is in the years prior to kindergarten that a child's brain develops the most. Take advantage of that everywhere you go. For example, at the grocery store, start a conversation about how the groceries got on the shelf and where they came from.

Q. What “educational” toys do I need to buy to help my child develop the skills needed to become a good reader?

A. It's not the toys that do the most for your child's brain to develop, it's you! Your child's brain develops the most during positive interactions with you. Having conversations and reading aloud with your child are the best things that you can do. Hugging, cuddling, and using respectful words also helps the brain to grow.

Q. What if my child doesn't want to sit still to learn?

A. All children learn differently. A preschool child will not typically sit still for long periods. Keep it fun! Watch to see how your child seems to prefer learning. Allow your child to wiggle, laugh, sing, touch, and talk while learning. Expect a response of curiosity and wonder rather than one of stillness.