

Read

Point out words on signs and in stores. Search for the letter that

begins your child's name.

Take turns telling stories at bedtime.

Read a book your child loves.

Read a rhyming book to your child. Let your child fill in the words as you read them again and again.

As you read with your child, point out objects in the pictures.

Visit your local public library, and as early as possible, get your child a library card.

Write

Paint or draw a picture to music.

Play with magnetic letters on a surface such as the refrigerator. Spell simple words for your child and have your child repeat them.

Draw shapes and count them.

Shape letters out of play dough.

Use finger paint to draw shapes and write letters.

Have your child practice letters with shaving cream in the tub.

Play

Sit child on your lap and blow bubbles.

Pretend to be your favorite zoo animal.

Pretend you and your child are robots.

Hide a toy and play the Hotter/Colder game.

Build a castle out of blocks or play with empty boxes.

Have a tea party or picnic with your child's stuffed animals.

Talk

At bedtime, talk to your child about his/her favorite part of the day. Let your child talk on the phone to a friend or relative. Ask "what if" questions. "What if that butterfly lands on your nose?" As you get dinner ready, talk to your child about things that are happening. Go to a familiar place and look at the people who work there. Talk about

what they do and what tools they use.

Take a walk and talk about the things you see.

Sing

Sing your favorite song.

Sing the ABC's with your child.

Use kitchen objects to make instruments; play and sing to your pots and pans band.

Put on a favorite CD and sing while doing chores around the house. Sing action songs like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" or "Itsy Bitsy Spider." Make up songs with your child's name in them.

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