# READING, WRITING & ARITHMETIC
# Preschoolers (3-5 years old)

Keys to help make learning fun, easy and help prepare your child for kindergarten.

When it comes to helping your preschool-aged child work on language and math skills, it's best to find games and activities you both enjoy. This can lay the foundation for a positive attitude toward learning.

- Read aloud to your child and discuss the characters, pictures, and events in the book. "Ask your child questions, such as: 'What do you see in this picture?' or 'What do you think the bears will do next?'"
- Play with alphabet magnets and letter stamps so your child will start learning about letters. "Help your child learn to recognize the letters in her own name and in the names of family members and friends," Barclay says.
- Give your child crayons, pencils, markers, and paper and encourage him/her to scribble and draw.
- Count things out loud together. For instance, you can count how many carrots are on a plate or how many pennies you're putting in a piggy bank.
- Ask your child to point out the numbers he/she sees around. -- for example, while in the car, grocery store or on an elevator.
- Encourage your child to build towers with blocks. "Discuss what they're building using words like under, over, between, inside, outside, up, and down," This can help them learn about geometry.
- Sort objects with your child by color, size, or shape. While you're folding laundry, you can ask your child to sort the white socks into one pile and the blue socks into another pile.
- Teach your child about measuring with cups and tablespoons while you cook. Ask them to help you count how many cups of flour you're adding to the cookie batter.
- Lastly, remember to allow your child to learn at their own pace. Avoid allowing your child to hear you comparing her/his or any other child's progress with that of another.