#### The Power of Language: Reading and Writing



#### **Emergent Reading and Writing**

Emergent reading and writing skills are a young child's first attempts at reading and writing. These skills begin to develop as young children listen to stories, look at pictures in books, turn pages, and make marks on paper. These skills lead to children becoming more creative and confident in how they express themselves.

# To support emergent reading and writing literacy development for infants & toddlers, try these activities:

- Read books daily, point out pictures, use an animated voice
- Include books representing all cultures and languages
- Interact with young children while reading, pointing to pictures, saying the names, and describing what you are seeing
- Encourage play with toys that will build fine motor strength
- Provide paper and jumbo crayons or pencils for scribbling and drawing

# To support emergent reading and writing literacy development for preschool-aged children, try these activities:

- Read simple stories and repeat favorite ones often
- Have a variety of books available that are age appropriate
- Provide opportunities for children to write, draw and be creative
- Learn about each families' culture and language. Provide meaningful, relevant, and respectful learning experiences for each child and family

### To support emergent reading and writing literacy development for school-aged children, try these activities:

- Give children the supplies to make a homemade bookmark, this will motivate them to read
- Establish a regular pattern of reading chapter books to children daily
- Visit a public library, get children their own library card
- Create a comfortable cozy corner with lots of good books to read
- Plan activities that link back to the book's children are reading
- Provide journaling materials for children to record their thoughts
- Inspire creative writing by asking children to write about what interests them
- Keep fun writing materials well-stocked and accessible e.g. fancy pens and paper, neon crayons, glow in the dark markers and/or paint etc.



