

DAILY DOSE OF READING

Improving Literacy In Children
By Empowering Families Through Reading And Language



TRY AT HOME

4 EASY STEPS TO IMPROVE EARLY LITERACY BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF WORDS YOUR CHILD HEARS

“Watch It Grow”

1. TALK

- Describe locations for where things grow (“in the garden,” “next to the porch steps,” “near the fence,” etc.)
- Use action words (picking flowers, pruning, weeding, digging, poking, scattering, patting)
- Talk about what plants need to grow (soil, sunshine, water)
- Identify parts of the flower (stem, leaves, thorn, petals, bloom)

2. SING

We Need Seeds (Mailbox magazine-Diane Gilliam and Angie Kutzer)

Tune: 🎵 **The Muffin Man** 🎵

Oh, do you know that seeds need soil,
Seeds need soil, seeds need soil?
Oh, do you know that seeds need soil,
To grow and grow and grow?

Additional verses:

Oh, do you know that seeds need rain....
Oh, do you know that seeds need sun...
Oh, do you know that we need seeds...

3. READ

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

One Bean by Anne Rockwell

A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds by Jean Richards

How a Seed Grows by Helene Jordan

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

4. PLAY

- Involve children in planting a flower or some seeds. Continue to keep their interest by having them take care of it daily. Watch the changes and talk about them.
- If you have the space and time, plan a garden with your child and make it come true.
- Pick daffodils or dandelions and give them to someone special.
- Keep plastic buckets, shovels and trowels available for digging in the dirt and sand.

QUICK FACT: On average, children in economically depressed communities have 0-2 age appropriate books in their homes. - Jeff McQuillan. *The Literacy Crisis*. California State University.