



Building Your Child's Early Language and Literacy Skills: **Can Technology Help?**

To be prepared for success in school, your preschooler needs to learn a number of important early language and literacy skills, like:

- ✓ Story comprehension
- ✓ Knowledge of how print works
- ✓ Vocabulary development
- ✓ Letter-sound knowledge

Parents often wonder whether the use of everyday technology like tablets and smart phones can help build these important skills.

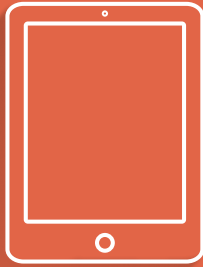
Technology can help BUT interaction is the key

If your child is looking at a tablet or a smart phone all by himself, he won't be learning as much as he could if you were interacting with him at the same time.

Research shows that children learn language and literacy skills best during natural, fun interactions and conversations with the important people in their lives. So no matter what activity you're engaged in – whether you're having breakfast or looking at an app together – the key to helping your child learn is engaging her in enjoyable conversations.

The bottom line: Technology can be both fun and useful when you're using it as a tool to help engage your child in the kinds of rich, language-filled interactions that help him learn.

Use your tablet



Build your child's story re-tell skills

Giving your child opportunities to re-tell stories will build his understanding of how stories work – an important early literacy skill that will help with reading comprehension later on.

Download an app on your tablet that allows you to create collages and write text beneath the photos. The next time you go on an outing with your child, take a few photos of what's going on. For example, during a trip to the zoo, take photos as your child spots different animals, eats a snack or enjoys a camel ride.

Later, look at the collage together and use the photos as a guide to help your child recount what happened at the zoo. Ask her what she wants you to write under each photo and then type it in. Now you have a personalized story! Ask your child to give the collage a name, like "Zoo Day", and read the story as many times as she likes.

Use your
smartphone

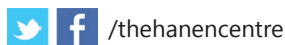


Build your child's vocabulary

The more words your child knows, the easier it is for her to learn new words and to gain meaning from the stories she reads.

When responding to an email on your smart phone or computer, help your child understand new words like **reply** or **forward**. For example, while pointing to the word "reply" on the screen, say, "We want to say something back to Grandma, so we're going to click **Reply**. When someone sends us a message and we send one back, that's called **replying**." Then, use the word again in other situations (for example, when replying to a text message or to a letter).

To find out more about how technology fits with your preschooler's language and literacy development, and for more fun tips, visit www.hanen.org/technology-and-literacy



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