

Languages and Literacies

The development of languages and literacies among young children provides them with a strong basis for successful learning throughout their lifetimes. “Literacies” is a broad term used to describe the development of the physical, emotional, social, creative, linguistic and intellectual means of communication among young children. It is essential to nurture the emotional, social, creative, and intellectual capacities that support the fluent use of a range of expressive mediums, rather than limiting learning activities to only “pre-reading” skills, such as learning the alphabet or counting to 10. By nurturing these capacities, and by encouraging children’s natural tendencies to engage in creative play, adults can help young children learn to respect, explore, and enjoy the languages and symbols of their own and other cultures.

Learning Goals to promote the development of: [Languages and Literacies](#)

Adults provide an environment where young children can:

- communicate thoughts and experiences creatively using many different forms of expression
- develop diverse language abilities and the capacity to communicate with others in many ways
- be curious about vocabulary, concepts, and written language
- engage in sound and word play
- use numbers, measurement, and form in meaningful contexts
- experience the stories and symbols of their own and other cultures
- express their own points of view and reflect on others’ views