

# Literacy Development *Age by Age*

Here's a look at how children go from imitating sounds to recognizing simple words to becoming readers and writers.

## Children may

0  
to  
2

- \* delight in listening to familiar jingles and rhymes.
- \* play along in games such as peekaboo and pattycake.
- \* show interest in books that feature familiar objects.
- \* begin to name these objects out loud.
- \* participate in making the sounds of animals they see in books.

2  
to  
3



- \* enjoy listening to stories, rhymes, and songs; doing finger plays; looking at books.
- \* understand that their written name signifies something special that pertains specifically to them.
- \* scribble enthusiastically.

3  
to  
4



- \* delight in conversing and being listened and responded to.
- \* recognize examples of print in their environment.
- \* know that writing is a form of communication.
- \* enjoy dictating comments about artwork and letters.
- \* know that people read for a purpose.

4  
to  
5



- \* realize that reading moves left to right, top to bottom.
- \* learn that print, rather than pictures, carries the meaning of the story.
- \* pretend to read, using visual cues to remember the words to their favorite stories.
- \* understand that writing is used to convey messages and has a specific form and symbol system.
- \* recognize and name some letters.
- \* write some letters.
- \* enjoy playing games involving written words and numbers.

5  
to  
6



- \* recognize and identify some of the sounds that letters represent.
- \* sound out some words.
- \* enjoy writing and giving written messages to others.
- \* attempt to do their own writing, using invented and standard spelling.
- \* begin to write the words they hear.
- \* learn to leave spaces between words.
- \* enjoy reading favorite books, simple predictable books, and books they have written.
- \* love to browse through beautiful books.