Discover print together

Letters and symbols fascinate children. With your help your child can turn print into meaning. Use paper and pencil to allow him/her to experiment with print.

Visit the library

Books can become good friends. At the library you and your child can repeatedly borrow books and other media to take home and enjoy.

Use various media

Modern technology is as much a part of a child's daily life as outdoor activity and multi-sensory experiences. Discover stories in books, films, audio-CDs and apps together.



Use pictures and print creatively

Scribbling and drawing on paper, taking photographs together and editing them with a smartphone or tablet stimulates your child to express herself/himself using pictures and language.

Family Literacy

Helpful hints to encourage your child's language and literacy development







Schweizerisches Institut für Kinder- und Jugendmedien

Speak your mother tongue

If you talk to your child in the language you speak most fluently, you will give your child a solid foundation upon which other languages can be learned.

Listen and reply

Conversation promotes language development. Talk to your child about its observations. In this way he/she will broaden his/her vocabulary and want to make new discoveries.

Play with language together

Playing with language can be lots of fun. Rhymes, songs and movement games allow your child to experience how much fun language can be.



Storytelling and looking at pictures

Telling stories and looking at pictures together exposes your child to new worlds and promotes vocabulary development.



The Swiss Institute for Children's and Youth Media SIKJM

The Swiss Institute for Children's and Youth Media SIKJM specializes in research and education of children and youth literature through all types of media. The institute offers training and workshops and develops projects which encourage language and literacy development in children and juveniles.

Bookstart, a project offered in collaboration with Bibliomedia Switzerland encourages parents to discover the world of language and imagination together with their baby. Each newborn receives its first book and libraries invite parents and their toddlers to attend baby story-times.

In the programme **Tell me a Story – Family Literacy** parents and their children meet regularly for storytime in their first language. A trained SIKJM language facilitator invites the parents and children to play, sing, look at picture books and explore the world of print.



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