

RECOGNIZING Early Literacy *behaviors*

The interactions that young children have with literacy materials such as books, paper, and crayons are building blocks for language, reading, and writing development. Every encounter with words and stories – from playing with books and singing nursery rhymes to listening to stories and recognizing words, to scribbling and drawing – builds the foundation for language and literacy development.

Here are some early literacy behaviors to look for:

2 Looking & Recognizing

Paying attention to and interacting with pictures in books, such as gazing at pictures or laughing at a favorite picture

Showing recognition of and beginning to understand pictures in books, such as pointing to familiar object

4 Story-Reading

Verbal interactions with books and increasing understanding of print in books, such as babbling in imitation of reading or running fingers along printed words

1 Book Handling

Physical manipulation or handling of books, such as page turning and chewing

3 Picture & Story Comprehension

Understanding of pictures and events in a book, such as imitating an action seen in a picture or talking about events in a story