



www.reachoutandreadnyc.org

Reach Out and Connect: Creating a Literacy Friendly Environment

1. Spend time with Books

- a. Take time to read with your child every day in the language most comfortable to you!
- b. Mastery of their home language has a direct impact on school readiness and success. Switching between two languages help children develop a more flexible approach to problem solving.
- c. Children might need to run around while you are reading to them – that’s okay!
- d. Have your kids see you read! Modeling is important.



2. Where can I get books if I don’t have any at home?

- a. Use your library card to access free e-books (resources for NY residents only)
 - i. If you don’t have one, you can register for one online here:
 1. New York Public Library: <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral/simple>
 2. Brooklyn Public Library: <https://disc.bklynlibrary.org/ecard/Default.aspx>
 3. Queens Public Library: <https://www.queenslibrary.org/get-a-card/eUser>
- b. Check out the ROR GNY resource page for additional e-book libraries (all free!)
- c. Storytelling
 - i. Check out our next workshop on how to tell a story!



3. Create a cozy environment

- a. Put down some blankets and pillows, make it inviting.
- b. Make sure the books are at child height.
- c. If you don’t have a bookshelf, use a cardboard box! See Kristen’s bookshelf for an example!



4. Writing and drawing are a great way to build literacy skills no matter their age or drawing/writing ability.

- a. Hang your children’s drawings on the wall! Help build their confidence!
- b. Leave paper and crayons out for your child to use whenever inspiration strikes!
 - i. You can turn these papers into a book and have your child tell you a story that goes along with it.

