

Communication and Language Development: Emergent Literacy

Teaching Tips:

- It will be helpful to teach emergent literacy after having introduced the concepts in the overview of pillar four, early communication, and verbal development.
- Many parents may have heard the term "literacy" or "literate" but may not be able to explain how it relates to young children.
- Early or emergent literacy refers to everything children learn and know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.
- Remind parents that the goal of this module is not to learn techniques for teaching a child to read but instead to understand how children develop the skills necessary to read.

Learning Objectives for Parents and Caregivers

After learning about emergent literacy, parents and caregivers will be able to:

- 1) Describe how early experiences prepare children for reading and writing
- 2) Explain why young children's relationships with the significant adults in their lives, including parents and caregivers, are essential in fostering literacy skills
- 3) Understand how children are preparing to read and write long before they enter school

Key Messages for Parents and Caregivers

- 1) Literacy development begins in children's relationships with their parents and caregivers.
- 2) Emergent literacy does not mean teaching a child to read. Instead, it describes everything a child understands about reading and writing before they are actually able to read and write themselves.
- 3) The process of learning to read and write begins long before a child enters school.
- 4) Early experiences with and exposure to reading and writing correlate with a child's future literacy development and academic success.
- 5) Reading aloud to children provides many important opportunities for promoting literacy and preparing children to eventually read independently.



- 6) There are many ways to support young children's literacy and learning through every day activities and interactions.
- 7) Studies shows that parents play a critical role in helping to support young children's emerging literacy skills.

