


Literacy Development 4-5 years		
Age	What to expect	What you can do
4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoys shared reading • Understands the right way to hold a book and will engage in turning pages • Can discriminate between words and pictures • Answers basic questions about the picture or story that has been read • Will often pretend to read text and use picture as a cue • Begins to understand and recognise rhyme • Awareness and counting of syllables in words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage book reading • Model book reading • Engage in shared book reading with your child • Use your finger to track words as you read them • Before, during and after reading with your child, make sure to ask them questions about the story, characters, pictures and relate the story where possible to parts of the child's life, e.g. a trip to the zoo or beach 
5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds understanding of reading from left to right • Can recognise beginning sounds in words, e.g. 'c' + 'at' = 'cat' • Begins to segment words into sounds, e.g. 'moon' = 'm-oo-n' • Learns to recognise high frequency letters and words, i.e. own name or early sight words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your children about the sounds that letters make • Play games where you guess words by segmenting them into sounds, e.g. 'd-o-g' is... 'dog' • Expose your child to their name written in different fonts and sizes • Play games that encourage detecting rhyme, counting syllables or identifying sounds in words, e.g. "I spy..." <p>References www.asha.org/public/speech/development</p>

