



SCLSNJ: SOARING is designed to help parents navigate our Early Childhood programming and resources, learn the different strategies we use to support Early Literacy through each stage, and replicate those strategies at home. Look for icons to help you discover the storytimes, activities, and resources that are right for your child.

SCLSNJ SOARING Storytimes are based on the Every Child Ready to Read. Use these techniques at home to help your child soar into reading readiness.



Hatchlings (Birth-18 mo)

Sing:

- Help develop baby's speech and language skills with simple songs and nursery rhymes
- Share classic tunes like Old McDonald, Where Is Thumbkin, and Itsy Bitsy Spider
- Sing slowly so baby can hear all the sounds that make up words in a song

Talk:

- Encourage baby to imitate simple and familiar words with vocal cues and nonverbal gestures
- Introduce and identify baby's surroundings with words and gestures
- Connect words and objects (naming and pointing) to help develop recognition

Read:

- Introduce books that feature rhymes, pictures of familiar items, and repetitive sounds and words

- Share books with sturdy pages and have baby help hold and turn pages
- Encourage baby to identify and point to pictures in books

Play:

- Build vocabulary by naming toys like stuffed animals or blocks
- Use songs, rhymes and motion in play to encourage baby to imitate simple words
- Offer simple directions like clap and stomp and watch baby's reaction

Write:

- Try activities like clapping and grasping toys to spur fine motor and gross motor skills
- Model behavior by drawing pictures and letters while playing and sharing stories



Chicks (18-36 mo)

Sing:

- Sing songs that use animal noises, sound effects, and/or movement
- Use different speeds and tempos when singing or reciting rhymes
- Try action songs like Itsy Bitsy Spider that use a mix of motions

Talk:

- Repeat words and phrases from a story
- Review the sequence of a story so toddlers can start to understand story structure
- Ask toddlers to describe elements or characters in a book or story

Read:

- Encourage toddlers to recite or sing the letters of the alphabet
- Ask toddlers to make predictions about stories or to talk about the characters
- Help toddlers recognize signs and symbols from their world in the pages of a book

Play:

- Be active: dance, clap and use musical instruments
- Have toddlers mimic your actions in fingerplays and songs
- Ask questions during play so toddlers will learn how to answer simple inquiries

Write:

- Promote letter recognition and the development of fine motor skills
- Create opportunities to draw and scribble
- Encourage toddlers to make up stories to complement drawings



Songbirds (36-60 mo)

Sing:

- Ask kids to identify word sounds or rhyming sounds in music
- Encourage kids to finish the last word of a song
- Take a moment to talk about unfamiliar words

Talk:

- Ask kids for their point of view and to share their likes and dislikes
- Ask kids to repeat parts of a book or story
- Try longer phrases with more complex words to grow language skills

Read:

- Ask kids to identify letters within the text of a book
- Have kids match letters and sounds
- Ask kids about a favorite book or story

Play:

- Encourage dramatic play
- Draw and “pretend” to write in creative play
- Ask kids questions about their creations

Write:

- Try activities that involve drawing detailed images, letters and even words
- Practice name writing
- Help kids write a title on a drawing and sign their name