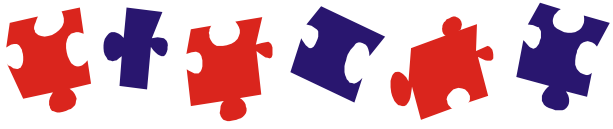


WHAT IS MY PRESCHOOLER LEARNING ABOUT READING?

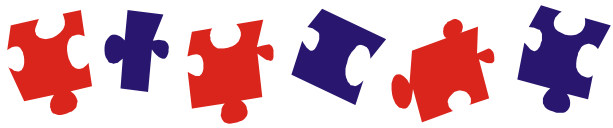
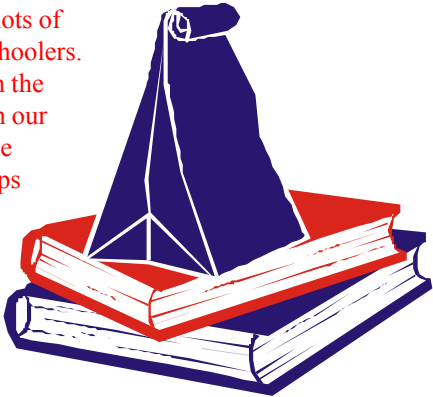


In the years before first grade, it is most important for children to learn that printed words stand for something real and that print can help us discover new things. Naming letters and their sounds is also important. We help children with this as they are ready and interested. Letter sounds are much more valuable to children after they understand that the words are telling a story.

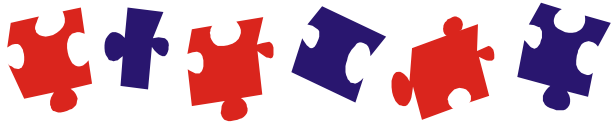
We encourage children to learn to read by:

✚ Posting signs with pictures and words. This helps children to connect printed words with real objects.

✚ Providing lots of books for preschoolers. As we read with the children, we run our fingers under the words. This helps them learn that the words go from left to right.



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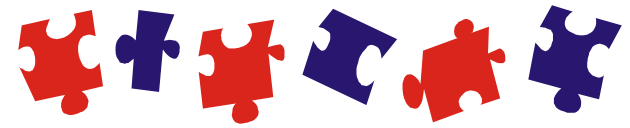
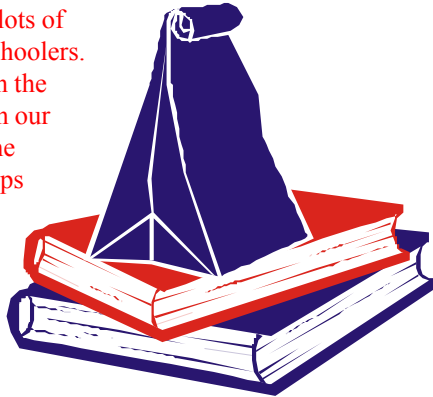


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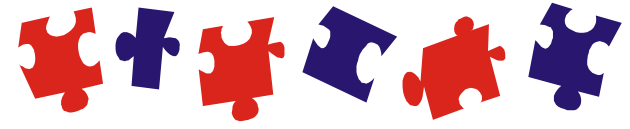
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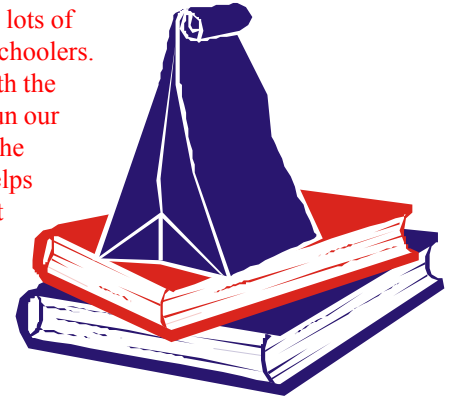


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✚ Having children dictate stories as we write down their thoughts. This helps them learn that words are people's ideas that are written down.

✚ Engaging children in activities related to the story, such as puppet shows, drawing pictures, or going on adventures. For example, after reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, we might go outside and search for caterpillars or butterflies.

✚ Reading the same stories over and over so that children can memorize parts of the story. When children are familiar with stories, they often pretend to read the stories themselves or tell the story by looking at the pictures.

✚ Asking "why?" and "what do you think?" questions. This helps children develop language and literacy skills as well as creativity and problem solving.

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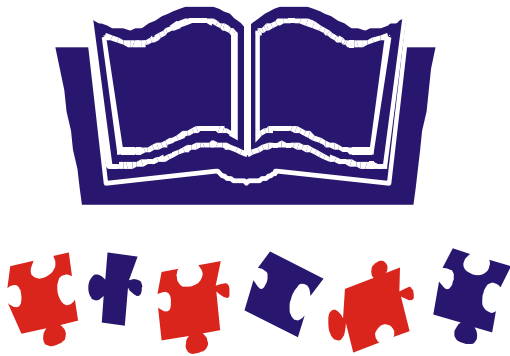
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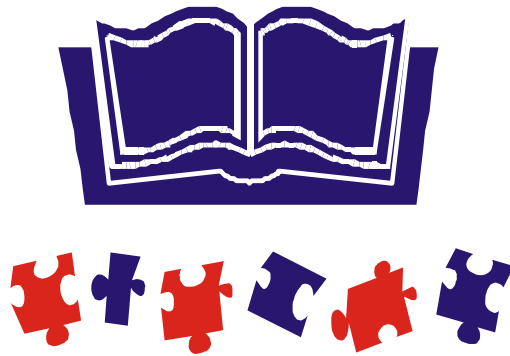
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 25-02

July, 1999

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, The University of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

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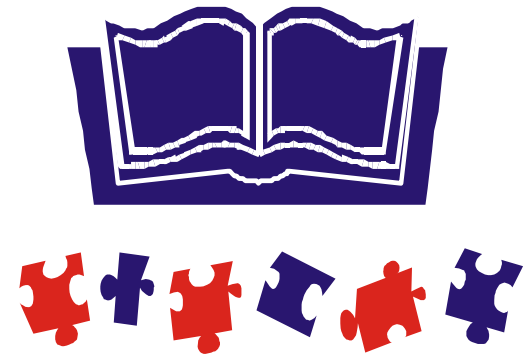
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