NBPL's Early Literacy Fun at Home!

	BABY 6-24 months	TODDLERS 2-3yrs	PRESCHOOL 3-5yrs	
Sing songs and play music. Singing helps children hear the sounds that make up words.	Clap with your little one while you sing your favorite songs!	Practice strengthening those little fingers with hand motions like in the Itsy Bitsy Spider and the Wheels on the Bus. Fingerplays are great, too!*	Bring out a wooden spoon and let your preschoolers tap along with the rhythm of the music!	
TALK Talk about books and ask your child about their favorite stories from the day.	Go for a walk and talk about what you see!	Play "I Spy" as you go for a walk!	Books are a great conversation starter! Encourage your child to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.	
READ Read together every day, especially before bed as it calms the body down.	Let your little one lead the way—turn the pages together!	Ask who, what, and where questions as you read a story.	Check out NBPL's Video Storytimes or sign in to Tumblebooks. Sit with your child while they listen along!	
WRITE Write or draw with your child.	Place sand or cornmeal on a lipped cookie sheet and help your child draw shapes and letters.	Practice increasing hand strength with clothespins, squirt bottles, and playdough, too!	Let children use scissors during a craft activity— work out those finger muscles!	
PLAY Play helps children learn about the world. It encourages creativity, critical thinking, cooperation, and taking turns.	Bounce together! Snuggle your little one on your lap and pretend to blast into outer space.*	Play songs with guided movements to acquaint your child with following directions.	Make puppets! Have your child act out their favorite story or create their own using puppets and stuffed animals.	

NBPL'S STAFF FAVORITE FINGERPLAYS

Bouncing Baby

Bouncing, Bouncing Baby on my knee Bouncing, bouncing 1 2 3! (lift or big bounce) Clapping, clapping with baby on my knee Clapping, clapping 1 2 3! Hugging, hugging baby on my knee Hugging, hugging 1 2 3!

Bounce, Tickle and Hug

I bounce you here,
I bounce you there
I bounce you, bounce you, everywhere!
I tickle you here,
I tickle you, tickle you everywhere!
I hug you here,
I hug you there,
I hug you, hug you, everywhere!

Bouncing, Bouncing/Jumping, Jumping

Bouncing, bouncing Bouncing, bouncing Hop, hop, hop Hop, hop, hop Bouncing, bouncing, bouncing, Bouncing, bouncing, bouncing Now we stop Now we stop

These are Baby's Fingers

- These are baby's fingers, touch child's fingers
- These are baby's toes, touch child's toes This is baby's bellybutton touch child's tummy
- Round and round it goes! tickle child's tummy

Tick Tock

- Tick tock, tick tock, I'm a little cuckoo clock Tick tock, tick tock, Now I'm striking one o clock – cuckoo (lift in air once – rock side to side)
- Tick tock, tick tock, I'm a little cuckoo clock Tick tock, tick tock, Now I'm striking 2 o clock cuckoo-cuckoo (lift in air twice – rock side to side) (repeat 3, 4, 5)

Dancing Fingers

Dance your fingers up, dance your fingers down Dance your fingers to the side and dance them round and round Dance them on your shoulders, dance them on your head Dance them on your belly, and now put them to bed

Patty Cake

Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man. Bake me a cake, as fast as you can. Roll it! Pat it! Mark it with a B. And stick in in the oven For baby and me!

Itsy Bitsy Spider

The Itsy Bitsy Spider Went up the water spout Down came the rain And washed the spider out Out came the sun And dried up all the rain And the itsy bitsy spider Went up the spout again

Open Shut Them

Open Shut Them Open Shut Them Give a little clap, clap, clap Open Shut Them Open Shut Them Put them in your lap, lap, lap

