

## Principles of Early Literacy

A set of principles based on the research related to early literacy has been used in the development of the 1-2-3 READ! storybook-based curriculum.

Early literacy...

- Is a developmental process beginning at birth and continuing throughout life
- Is intricately interwoven into all aspects of development, especially language and communication
- Develops during close, emotionally nurturing relationships with caregivers who encourage sharing of ideas and feelings
- Occurs in the natural context and in all aspects of daily life and play, not just in reading books
- Involves nurturing caregivers (i.e., parents, other family members, teachers, child care providers, etc.) as the models for and partners in literacy development
- Provides a foundation for imagination, creativity, and enjoyment of life and leads to knowledge, function, self-worth, and coping

A storybook approach to early literacy...

- Fosters nurturing and loving relationships between adults and the child
- Can be infused into daily life experiences in early childhood and home routines
- Fosters engagement, active exploration, child choice, and spontaneous play, fostering creativity and imagination
- Provides learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate and respond to individual interests and abilities of the child
- Includes varied experiences (e.g., stories, rhymes, dramatic play, and movement) that are sensitive to child and family culture and life ways and are generalizable to the child's life
- Enables adults and children to forge connections and enables children to learn how the world works and to find meaning from life events
- Builds partnerships between family and staff, increasing support for classroom efforts and improving family literacy

