Literacy Tips for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

1. Read together - have fun looking at the pictures in books. Encourage your child to hold the book and turn pages. This builds print motivation, a child’s interest in and enjoyment of books.
2. Sing together – when we sing with young children they hear that words are made up of different sounds. This builds phonological awareness.
3. Write together – run your fingers along the words as you read a book and encourage your baby to do so, too. This helps build the fine motor skills that are essential for writing. Provide chunky crayons and paper for scribbling.
4. Play together – act out the activity in a book. Active bodies are essential for healthy brains.
5. Talk together – talking with your babies and young children helps them know that they are precious and loved. It helps them learn that we communicate through language and words.
6. Play with language by having your child repeat animal sounds and making up silly rhyming words. This helps your child learn about the sounds that make up words.
7. Read a rhyming story and encourage your child to guess the words that finish the rhymes.
8. As you come across new words, explain what they mean. This is how children learn vocabulary.
9. Read often throughout your day. Keep board books in the toy box, diaper bag, car, and allow your child to play with the books at will. Exploring books will help your child learn how to handle them.
10. Encourage storytelling by asking your child about the pictures and sequence of a story. Allow this to be a question and answer session to encourage your child to continue and know that you are interested in what they have to tell you.