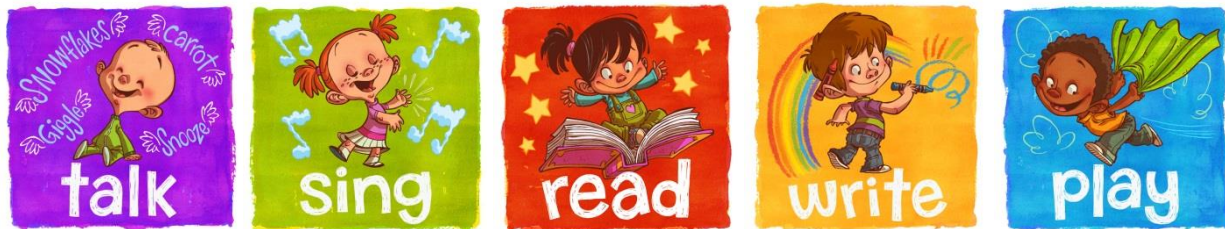




## **Early Literacy Story Times**

**Status Report – December 2014**

At the Oshkosh Public Library, we know that every parent of a newborn has high hopes for that child's success, and that becoming a good reader helps pave the way to a bright future. In order to help parents and caregivers in their roles as babies' first teachers, we launched the High Hopes early literacy program in January 2013. These story time programs are based upon six pre-literacy skills that create a solid foundation for reading:

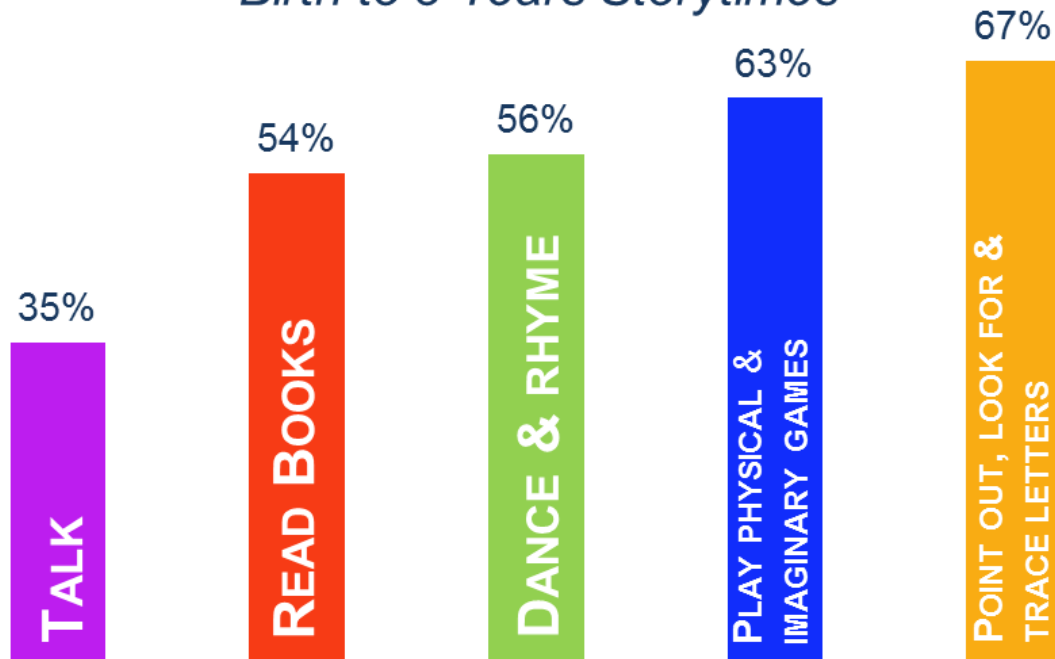


New families attending the High Hopes story times are asked to fill out a questionnaire that tells us which of forty different pre-literacy activities they already do with their birth to three year old children. Examples of these activities include telling a child the names of things, reading bedtime stories, reciting nursery rhymes together or playing with blocks. Most families reported that they already shared 20 – 30 of the listed activities with their children – a great start!

When asked what they would like to learn from our children's librarian, parents and caregivers asked for new ideas for things to do with their child at home. This is the main focus of the High Hopes story times -- sharing and teaching activities that are fun and that ready the child to be a confident reader.

After a family has attended six High Hopes story time sessions and is ready to “graduate,” we ask them to tell us whether they are sharing several key pre-literacy activities with their children more often, the same amount, or less often. The results indicate that High Hopes is an effective means for increasing the amount of time that participating families spend on activities that foster the skills that lead to reading.

### *High Hopes Birth to 3 Years Storytimes*



Percent of Parents Who Share Pre-Literacy Activities  
**More Often** With Their Children  
After Attending High Hopes Storytimes at Oshkosh Public Library

Just a few of the ideas that families report trying out at home include:

- Using bigger words
- Pointing out items while driving
- Using cereal boxes for blocks
- Making spaghetti out of play-doh
- Tracing letters in salt and paint
- Imagining cotton balls are ice cream
- Making button snakes
- Taping shapes on the floor

One mom comments:

*“We really enjoy the High Hopes program and like all the aspects that help both the parent and child.”*