

## From the Six Skills (in ECRR 1st Edition) to the Five Practices (in ECRR 2nd Edition)

The first edition of Every Child Ready to Read® incorporated the six-skills framework based on the work of Dr. G. C. Whitehurst and Dr. C. J. Lonigan. The skills presented in ECRR 1st Edition were:

- Print awareness
- Letter knowledge
- Phonological awareness
- Vocabulary
- Narrative skills
- Print motivation

The evaluation of ECRR 1st Edition by Dr. Susan B. Neuman and Dr. Donna Celano, researchers and early literacy experts, found that a majority of users wanted simplified terminology. In ECRR 2nd Edition, the more academic jargon of the six skills is replaced with five simple but powerful practices that parents and caregivers can use to help young children get ready to read. These five practices are incorporated into the Every Child Ready to Read® workshops and supporting materials. They can easily be integrated into everyday activities to help children learn early literacy skills.

- Talking** Talking with children helps them learn oral language, one of the most critical early literacy skills. The experience of self-expression also stimulates brain development, which underlies all learning.
- Singing** Singing—which also includes rhyming—increases children’s awareness of and sensitivity to the sounds in words. This helps prepare children to decode print (written language).
- Reading** Reading together, or shared reading, remains the single most effective way to help children become proficient readers.
- Writing** Writing and reading go together. Writing helps children learn that letters and words stand for sounds and that print has meaning.
- Playing** Play is one of the primary ways young children learn about the world. General knowledge is an important literacy skill that helps children understand books and stories once they begin to read.

### **The five early literacy practices in ECRR 2nd Edition support the six skills from the first edition.**

- Talking** Talking with children helps develop all six skills featured in ECRR 1st Edition: print awareness, letter knowledge, phonological awareness, vocabulary, narrative skills, and print motivation.
- Singing** Singing and rhyming are especially effective at developing letter knowledge, phonological awareness, and vocabulary.
- Reading** Reading also helps children learn all six skills featured in ECRR 1st Edition.
- Writing** Writing helps children learn about print, letters, phonological awareness, vocabulary, and narrative skills.
- Playing** Play is a way children can learn all six skills from ECRR 1st Edition.