early literacy: what children learn about reading and writing BEFORE they can actually read or write

six early literacy skills

1. print motivation/loving books
   - a child's interest in, and enjoyment of books
2. print awareness/using books
   - noticing print everywhere; knowing how to handle a book; words on page
3. vocabulary/understanding words
   - knowing the names of things
4. narrative skills/story awareness
   - understanding and telling stories
5. letter knowledge/understanding letters
   - different from each other; different names & sounds
6. phonological awareness/understanding words
   - identifying sounds in words

early literacy and developmentally appropriate

infants
- hearing our language
ones
- making sense of our language
twos and up
- responding to our language

essential activities that promote early literacy skills

books/reading
- introduces the left/right process
- exposes the child to an exciting, new world through stories and informational titles
- allows the child to hear the linguistic patterns of his/her language
- connects a child with an adults

music/singing
- powers the brain: connects neural pathways
- influences: stimulates creativity
- connects: brings diverse groups together
- transports: in time and emotion
- comforts: security and memories
  from “Sing into Reading” by Nancy Stewart

finger plays
- promotes love of rhythm and movement
- helps children to develop creativity
- promotes & encourages verbal and motor skills
- teaches concepts (body parts, counting, colors, up/down)
- helps a child observe and follow along/focus

signing
- reduces frustration and provides a means to express themselves
- increases parent-child bonding
- children who learn sign actually talk & comprehend language better than those who don’t
- bigger vocabulary and form longer sentences

other necessity practices for young children

playing talking writing