

## Learning on the Go: Literacy Tips for Young Children

Rub-a-dub-dub! There's learning in the tub! Young children generally love water and water play. Here are some ideas to make bath time into learning time:

- Give your child plastic cups and pitchers to play with in the bathtub. It's a great place to practice pouring without making a mess. You can talk about concepts such as "empty" and "full," and count the number of cups it takes to fill a pitcher.
- Other toys can also teach. Help your child notice that the wind-up propeller on a small toy boat goes slower in the water than in the air. The sponge absorbs water. Foam toys float but soap sinks.
- Try giving your child finger paint in the tub just before you run the water. It's an easy cleanup when they're through—just wash it away. You can help them write the letters of their names in the paint. Or help them learn more body parts, such as elbow and ankle, as they paint themselves and the bathtub.
- Sing songs about water, such as "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," "Itsy, Bitsy Spider," "I'm a Little Teapot," and "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head."

Always supervise your children closely in the bathtub as they play and learn!