

NATIONAL ALLIANCE

of home visiting models

Home Visiting Supports Early Language and Literacy

Decades of research confirm that early literacy is fostered through nurturing, responsive relationships, as positive, secure attachments with caregivers provide the essential foundation for language and brain development.

Literacy skill building begins long before a child enters a formal school setting. Exposure to language-rich environments and shared reading experiences shapes literacy development and school success later in life. Home visiting focused on children from birth to five years of age provides a unique opportunity to support early language and

literacy development from the very beginning, grounded in the parent-child relationship.

Children learn language best through nurturing, responsive relationships. When families feel supported, parents are better able to experience confidence and pride in their parenting and connection with their child. This foundation opens the door for practicing new skills that strengthen early language and literacy development. Home visiting builds the relational foundations first, making literacy skill-building more effective.

Home Visits – Early Literacy Skill Building in Action

Home visitors support parents and caregivers in recognizing and responding to their child's developmental and emotional cues, including shared attention, early communication, and readiness for books and storytelling.

Home visitors may bring books into the home, connect families to libraries and literacy resources, and share information about language development across stages of child development from birth to five. Parents practice skills in real time with coaching and encouragement.

Visits are typically guided by family-driven goals. Home visitors partner with parents to break larger goals into manageable action steps, celebrating

progress along the way. Over time, these small steps help build more complex skills. For example, this may include supporting a parent through concrete activities to nurture their child's language development through conversation, play, and shared reading, all within the context of a strong, nurturing relationship.

Early literacy skill-building through home visiting:

- ✓ **Strengthens** school readiness
- ✓ **Builds** early vocabulary and communication skills
- ✓ **Supports** parent confidence and engagement
- ✓ **Promotes** lifelong learning habits

About the National Alliance of Home Visiting Models

The vision of the National Alliance of Home Visiting Models is to normalize evidence-based, prenatal and early childhood home visiting programs on a national scale as an integral component of services and programs to promote positive outcomes for all children. In order to improve the health and well-being of young children and their parents, the Model Alliance members seek to elevate and advance the field of evidence-based home visiting through collaborative leadership. To learn more visit: www.nationalalliancehvmodels.org

A strong and growing body of research demonstrates the impact of early relationships and home visiting on child development, including early language and literacy.



To learn more about individual model research, contact the model directly.