



Proper Practices Make Better Learning

Nigel's Journey Towards Early Literacy

• Charmesh D. Valdez

"A love of books, of holding a book, turning its pages, looking at its pictures, and living its fascinating stories goes hand-in-hand with a love of learning." -Laura Bush, 2003

Nigel Aldrich Doria Valdez, two years old, started his literacy journey with adequately managed exposure to signs, letters, words, pictures, educational toys, and board books. As the famous, slightly-altered cliché would say, "Right practice makes you perfect." The fundamentals of my son's early steps towards literacy include me not engaging him through culture-based 'baby talk.' Instead, I talk to my child in a usual but sweet and gentle way.

My family also invested in educational toys and materials in laying the foundation of Nigel's early education. The results turned out to very encouraging and rewarding, making the investments all worth it. His exposure to letter recognition games proved vital as it was a massive catalyst for learning the letters and the sounds of the whole alphabet.

Educational videos, songs and rhymes allowed him to memorize different kinds of animals (farm, sea and home animals and birds), a wide array of fruits and vegetables (52 by my count), variations of colors and shapes, vehicles and even country flags. The educational videos also helped advance Nigel's listening skills and develop his sense of recognition. Also, as early as

now, Nigel can already count and recognize numbers from 1-20, sing the days of the week and even determine the day's weather.



Nigel loves coloring and naming different kinds of animals.

In this time of pandemic, we were able to allot additional time to focus on his early education, teaching him through charts, games and educational toys. Also, a vital part of his literacy journey is discerning what is right and wrong, as he can defend his answer on the games he plays. For example, if he guesses the correct letter, number or shape and you say he is wrong, he will be adamant in saying he is right, standing firm by his answer. At the same time, he was developing his emotional core and confidence by encouraging him and making him feel loved allowed Nigel to blossom and show his potential as early as five months.

At present, he can already introduce himself, tell the names of his parents, say utterances such as "thank you," "please," "sorry," "you're welcome," "I miss you," and my ultimate favorite, "I love you, Mama Charmesh."

All of these cultivated into me, a proud mom, entirely believing in the notion that indeed, learning rooted in love is beyond compare.



LITERACY JOURNEY

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