Read *Rrralph* by Lois Ehlert. This story is about a dog who can talk, appropriately saying words such as “roof,” “rough” and “bark.”

Have children draw a picture of a dog. Write down the name and other information that children tell you about their picture.

Talk about the sounds that different pets make. Connecting animals with their sounds sets a foundation for children to later associate letters with sounds as they begin to read.

Sing a “RALPH” version of the “BINGO” song:

There was a child who had a dog / and Ralph was his name-o. / R-A-L-P-H, / R-A-L-P-H, / R-A-L-P-H / and Ralph was his name-o.

Play pretend pet owner with a stuffed animal. Be sure to feed, bathe, train and exercise your pet.

*Early literacy practice for children ages 2-3.*
*Find these and other tips at [www.earlylit.net](http://www.earlylit.net).*

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**Explore Early Literacy Practices:** Read, write, talk, sing and play with children every day! When you engage in these practices regularly, you help young children develop essential early literacy skills that prepare them for reading and learning.

See other early literacy resources at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).