Here are some ways to make literacy fun with your child or student:

1. **Read aloud together:** Make a game out of choosing the book to read, take turns.
2. **Adapt a book together:** Type the Braille, “look” through tactile materials, put them into the book as a fun activity.
3. **Make a story box:** Look around your house or classroom together for items that go with the book.
4. **Label the environment:** Have a scavenger hunt around a room or area!
5. **Make an experience story:** Collect items, brochures, objects during an outing and talk about them after by writing a short story about the trip!
6. **Cook together:** Keep the empty food cartons and packaging to discuss afterward or go shopping to do it again next week!
7. **Write a story:** Let the child indicate the topic or choose it together, collect objects and take turns putting them into book….let the child be the author, they will love to hear their name after the title, “by Tommy.”
8. **Make a “concept book”:** If the student recently experienced something such as cold snow falling on their face, make a book about cold vs. hot and share with others!
9. **Keep a journal:** At the end of the day, week, or weekend, jot down some key events and throw in some object representation (snack wrapper, calendar symbol, and voice recorded switch) and review the journal periodically.
10. **Write a letter and mail it together:** Relatives will often write letters back!
11. **Write a social story:** If a child is nervous about their first day of school, write a story about it using the items they will take to school such as their lunch box or even a favorite toy to share with new friends.
12. **Record a story with a familiar voice:** Having Dad record the lines of a story read in school makes reading time a lot more motivating and fun!
13. **Take a trip to the library:** You may find new topics of interest to the child! (and don’t forget to have the child sign up for their own Library Card!)

By Patricia Weismer, MS. Ed. & Deirdre Leech, M.Ed., Perkins Deafblind Program, Perkins School for the Blind from “Every Child is a Potential Reader.”

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