

The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large, vibrant red oval is centered on the page, serving as a backdrop for the main text.

# Supportive Enviroment For Literacy in the Kindergarten

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## Children and early literacy

The environment plays a specific part in development of literacy.

It is important that the surrounding environment and the adults support are able to create a learning environment that meets the prerequisites for development of literacy.

„There are three teachers of children: adults, other children, and their physical environment.”— LORIS MALAGUZZI

WHAT KIND OF PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT SHOULD THEN BE?

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## 1. Print rich enviroment

A variety of written materials such as alphabet charts, word walls, signs, and posters should be displayed in the classroom. Children should be able to study different texts - printed texts, teacher-generated text and and texts created by children themselves.

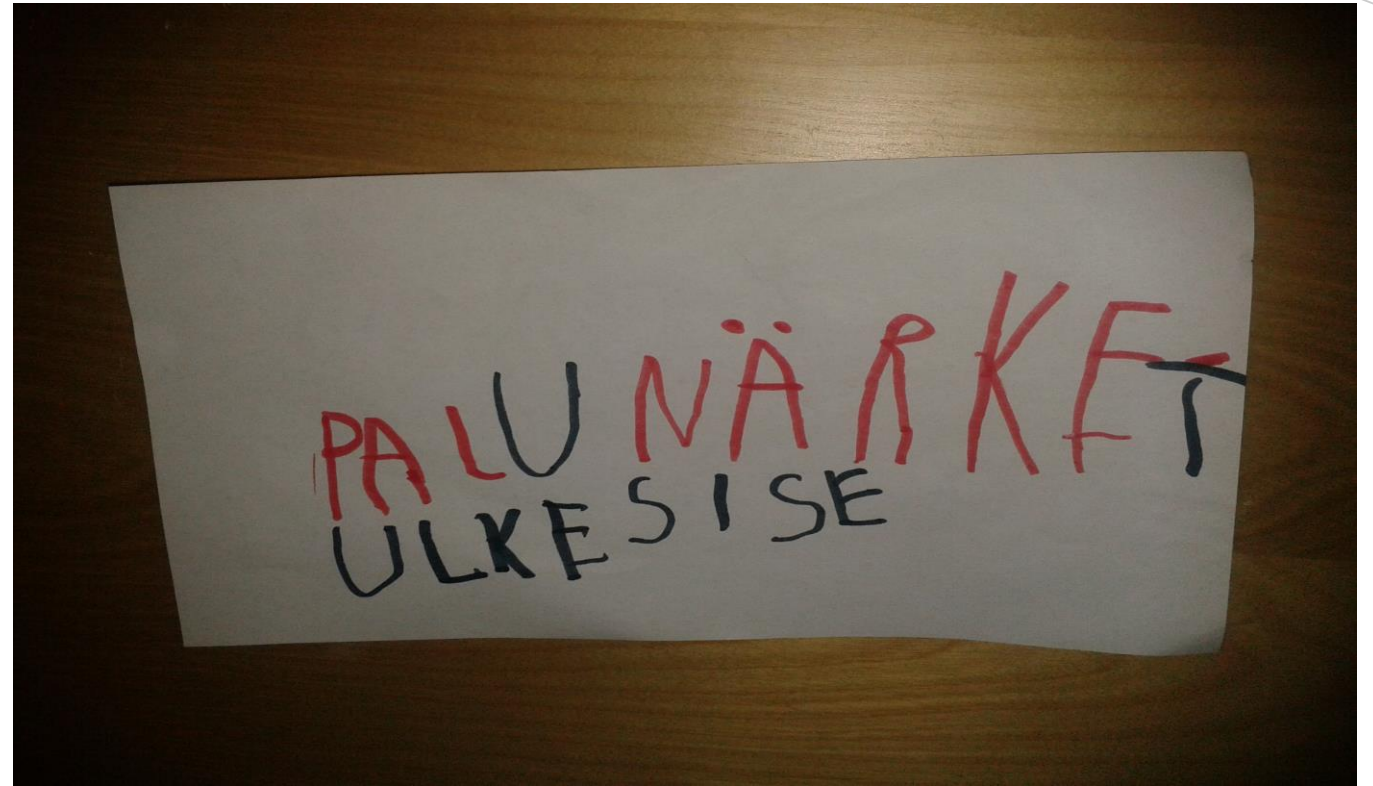


Writing Nest in the Naba Kindergarten in Tallinn

Exploring letters  
(Montessori sandpaper  
letters)

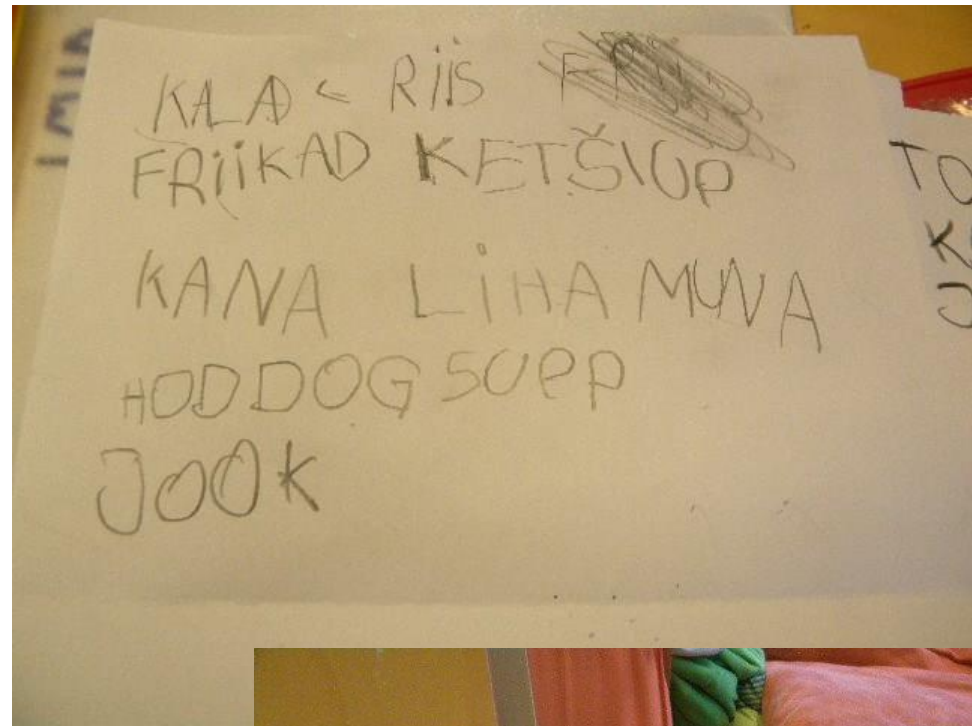


Another teacher said in his interview that yes, the children probably write something in their free time, but they take it to their closet...



**5-year-old boy hangs "Please don't come in" sign on bedroom door**





Two boys played restaurant for several weeks in a row. every day a new menu was written and sometimes an advertisement was even hung: "The cafe here is very good."



## 2. Access to books

There should be a wide selection of age-appropriate books available in the classroom, including fiction, non-fiction, and picture books. Children should have opportunities to independently choose and explore books at their own pace.

In my study **“Supportive Enviroment For Literacy in Both the Kindergarten Regular Classroom and Classroom with Reading Nest”** (Tallinn Univercity, 2014) said one theacher proudly...



**Bookself in traditional classroom**

**This is our neat bookself. Only I can take books from this shelf to read aloud or show pictures. Children are not allowed to took these books...**





Which shelf is more tempting to grab a book?





Reading Nest / Reading Center

### 3. Reading area

- Creating a cozy reading nook or a designated area with cushions and soft seating can encourage children to engage in independent reading and explore books on their own. This space should be inviting and comfortable.







## 4. Storytelling and Read- Alouds

- Teachers should regularly engage students in storytelling and read-aloud sessions. These activities help develop listening skills, vocabulary, and comprehension, as well as foster a love for stories. It is important to find time to read a book to one child or to a small group. Especially if there are small children 1-3 years old.



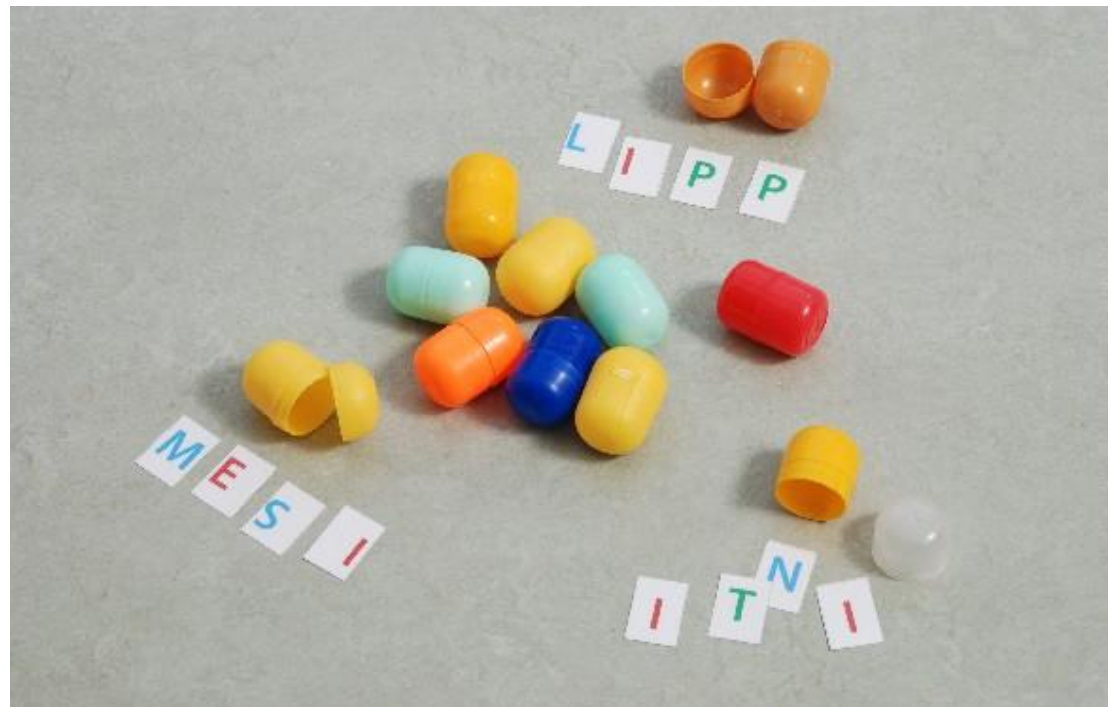
## 5. Phonemic Awareness Activities

- Kindergarten classrooms should include activities that promote phonemic awareness, such as rhyming games, word play, and sound recognition exercises. These activities lay the foundation for understanding the sounds of language.





Sound games



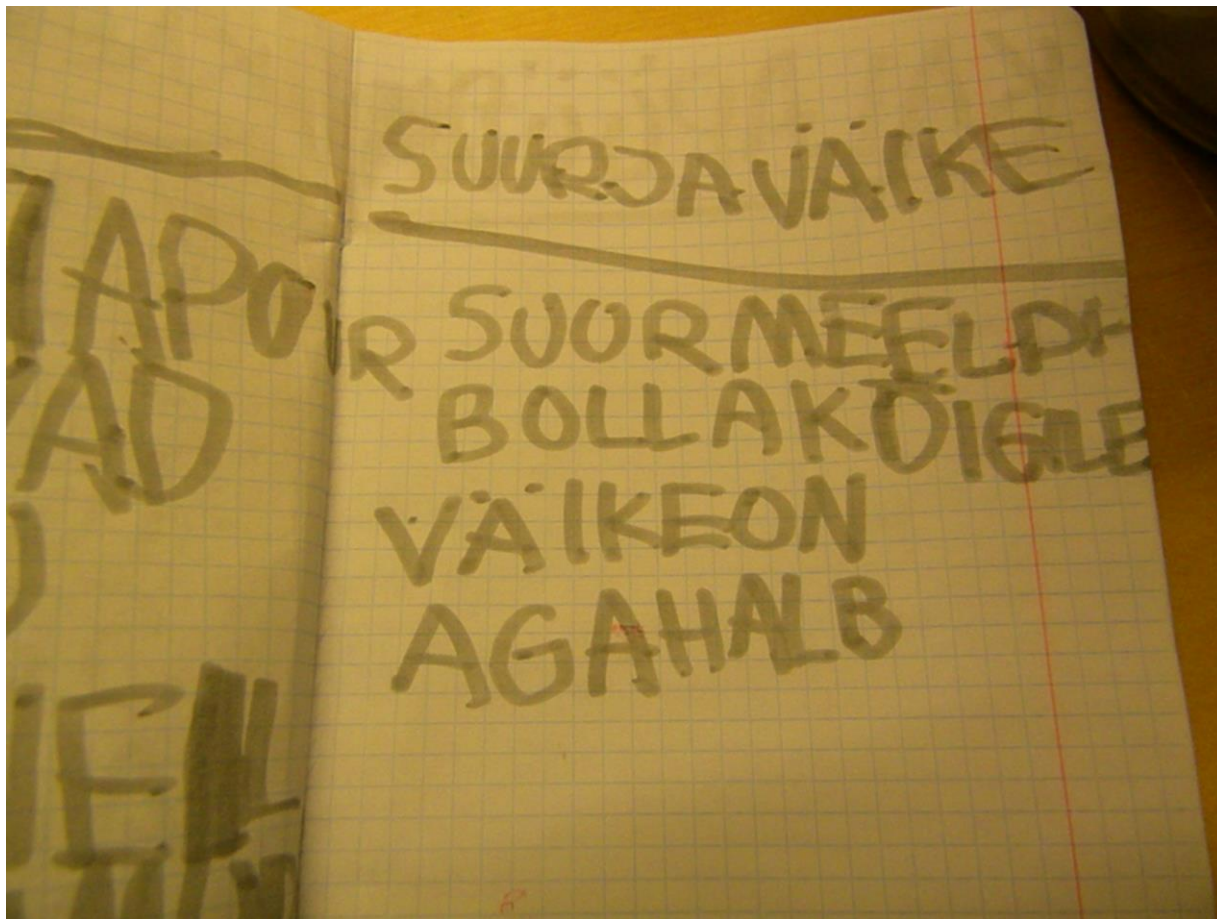


## 6. Writing Materials:

- Providing access to writing materials such as pencils, crayons, markers, and paper encourages young children to practice their emerging writing skills. Opportunities for drawing, labeling, and writing short sentences should be available.







One day I discovered that 5-year-old Jasper has written poems in a checkered notebook taken from his home. One is: "Big and small. To be big is good for everyone, but to be small is bad."







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PITSA LAKAST<sup>AS</sup> EK<sup>EP</sup>  
SOI<sup>A</sup> KR<sup>IKAT</sup> VIN<sup>ER</sup> IKA<sup>LA</sup>  
VNER<sup>IT</sup> SALAT



## 7. Language-Rich Instruction:

- Teachers should foster an environment that promotes verbal communication and language development. Engaging children in conversations, asking open-ended questions, and encouraging group discussions helps build vocabulary and oral language skills.

## 8. Differentiated Instruction

- Recognizing that children have diverse abilities and learning styles, teachers should provide literacy activities that are responsive to children's individual needs. This helps ensure that all learners have the opportunity to engage and grow in their literacy skills. Individual approach

## 9. Parent Involvement

- A supportive literacy environment can be extended beyond school walls by involving parents. Regular communication, sharing resources, and providing suggestions for literacy activities at home can help reinforce and support early literacy development. Parents can also help by bringing books to the kindergarten on requested topics or by helping to organize book exhibitions, e.g. my favorite childhood book, an exhibition of primers, etc.



Exhibition of ABC books

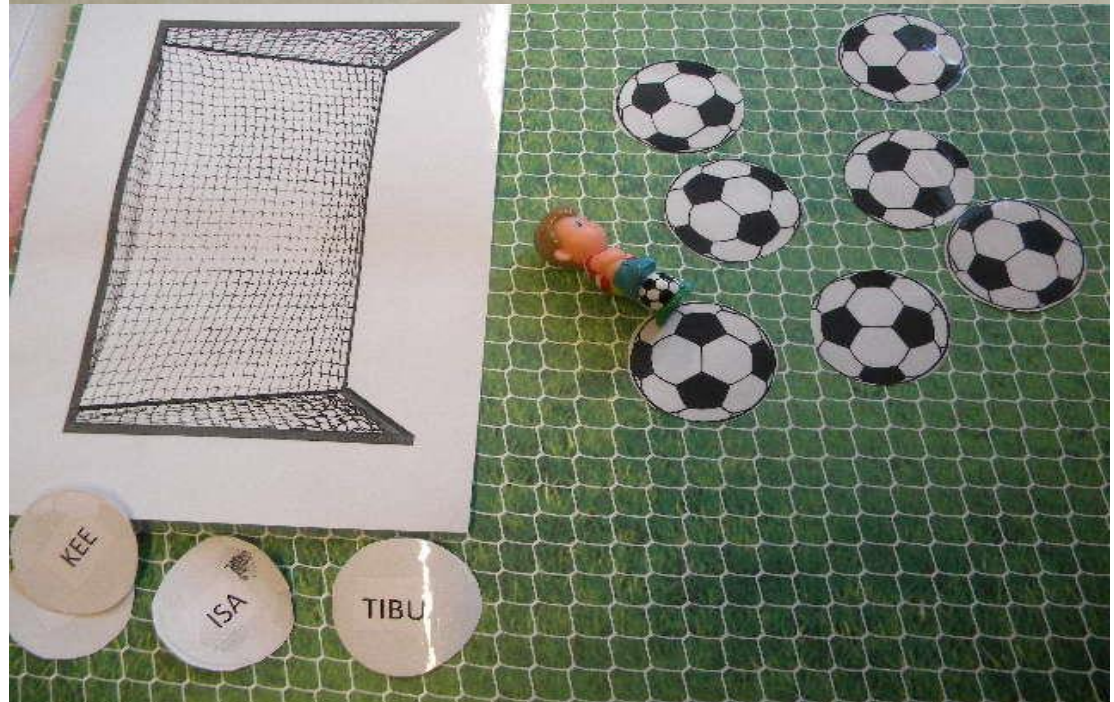
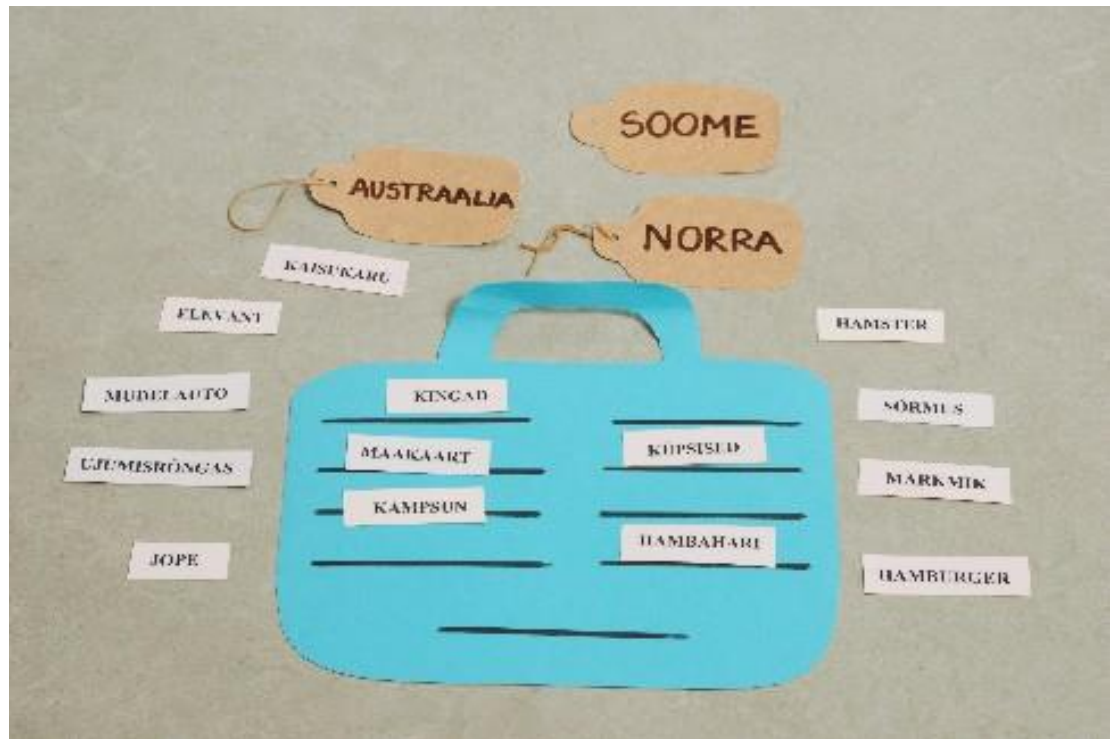
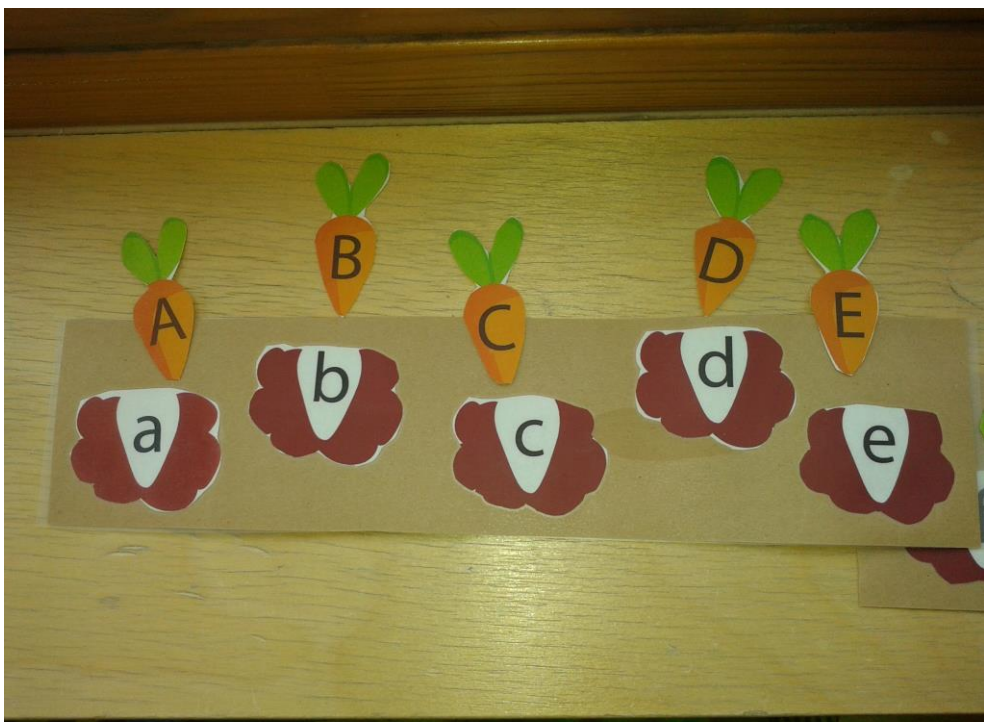


or my childhood favourite book...



## 10. Play-Based Approaches

- Play is an integral part of early childhood education. Providing opportunities for hands-on, play-based literacy activities and games helps children make meaningful connections between literacy skills and real-life experiences. By creating a supportive environment for literacy in kindergarten, teachers can nurture children's love for reading, writing, and communication while laying a strong foundation for future academic success.





**THANK YOU!**

**Books:**

1. S. Neaum „Langugae and Literacy for the Early Years“ SAGE, 2012
2. M.W. Smith, J.P. Brady, L. Anastasopoulus „Early Language & Literacy Classroom observation“ ELLCO PRE-K

