



Why Should You Read to Your Baby?

- It promotes physical and emotional closeness
- Baby will see reading as a happy activity
- Baby's eyes will begin to focus on the pictures
- Baby will learn new words
- It increases Baby's attention span
- Speaking abilities improve
- Readiness for school improves
- It promotes overall language development

How to Read Aloud to Your Baby!

- **Choose books that you like as much as the baby does.** Baby will want to hear some books over and over and over. Babies love repetition, and they learn a lot from it.
- **Let Baby see the pictures.** As you read, identify objects in the pictures, such as "This is a cat." Or "What is this?" This helps Baby's language development.
- **Use your voice in interesting ways.** Use different voices and inflections. Some parents are embarrassed about doing this in front of other people, but your baby will love it.
- **Let Baby help you read.** Baby can turn pages, or point to objects in the pictures. This helps baby understand the reading process.
- **Baby can sit on your lap, or you can lie down together.** Baby will associate reading with closeness to you.
- **Make reading a habit.** Choose a certain time of day, and develop a routine that will become familiar to Baby. Baby will learn that reading is an everyday routine.
- **Sharing a book does not mean that you must read every single word.** Sometimes, you may need to speed up a story, and sometimes you might just enjoy the pictures together.
- **When your baby is fussy, do not insist on reading to him or her.** Choose a time when Baby is alert and ready. Baby needs to learn that reading is pleasant, not a punishment.
- **"Waiting time" is prime reading time.** Share books when waiting for an appointment, at the grocery store, or in the car.

*Information on this sheet is adopted from **Born to Read: How to Raise a Reader**, a program of the American Library Association — Association for Library Service to Children.*

Beginning Books for Reading to Babies

Board Books and very simple picture books

Board books may be found in the Youth Services area with the call number “jPB” or “jP” followed by the authors’ last name. If you need directions, please ask library staff and they will help.

Ahlberg, Janet	See the Rabbit
Boynton, Sandra	Snuggle Puppy!
Gentieu, Penny	Baby! Talk!
Ginsburg, Mirra	The Chick and the Duckling
Hill, Eric	Where’s Spot?
Hoban, Tanya	White on Black
Miller, Margaret	I Love Colors
Oxenbury, Helen	All Fall Down • Clap Hands
Tafari, Nancy	Have You Seen My Duckling?

Rhyming and repeating patterns books

Rhyming and repeating patterns books are found in the picture book area; call numbers begin with “jP” followed by the last name of the author/illustrator given below.

Brown, Margaret Wise	Goodnight Moon
Carle, Eric	Do You Want to Be My Friend? [and others by Carle]
Cooke, Trish	So Much
Emberly, Ed	Drummer Hoff
Flack, Marjorie	Ask Mr. Bear
Fox, Mem	Where Is the Green Sheep?
Galdone, Paul	The Gingerbread Boy
Hill, Eric	Where’s Spot?
Ivimey, John	Three Blind Mice
Kovalski, Maryann	The Wheels on the Bus
Martin, Bill, Jr.	Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
Mosel, Arlene	Tikki Tikki Tembo
Mother Goose	Mother Goose: A Joyful Collection of Classic Nursery Rhymes & Riddles to Delight Little People
Sendak, Maurice	Chicken Soup with Rice
Wadsworth, Olive	Over in the Meadow

Resources for Parents & Caregivers

Codell, Esme	How to Get Your Child to Love Reading 028.5 Cod
Fox, Mem	Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever 649.58 Fox and j649.58 Fox
Freeman, Judy	More Books Kids Will Sit Still for: A Read Aloud Guide j028.5 Fre
Odean, Kathleen	Great Books for Babies and Toddlers: More Than 500 Recommended Books for Your Child’s First Three Years J028.5 Ode

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