

Make Reading Fun



Children take their first steps towards language well before they talk. Your talking, singing and story telling and your child's playful experiences with books are the building blocks for communicating, reading and writing. Here are some simple ways you and your child can enjoy books together:

With Infants:

- **Help them touch books and turn the pages.** Are there things to touch on the pages? Talk about what you see.
- **Bring books everywhere.** Keep small books in your car, purse and stroller and pull them out on the bus, while waiting at a doctor's office or when standing in a line.
- **Read and play with books every day.** Make it a fun and special time. Read the same story before naps or bedtime. You don't have to finish the story. Stop when your baby loses interest.
- **Point to interesting pictures as you read.** Describe them. Explain what you see. Play peek-a-boo with the pictures by covering and uncovering them with your hand.

What kinds of books are best?

- **Picture books with simple objects or faces**
- **Board or cloth books with pages that turn easily and won't tear**
- **Books with soft, rough or bumpy textures to touch and feel**

With Toddlers and Preschoolers:

- **Ask your child to point to pictures or to name things on the pages.** Make it into a game. Describe something in the picture and see if your child can find it.
- **Have him tell the story.** Let him tell his own version or leave out words to well known stories so he can fill them in.
- **Share new words.** Use the pictures in your child's books to help explain a new word. Ask a question to make sure she understands.
- **Talk about the story.** Ask questions about what happened before, what is happening now and what might happen on the next page. "What hat did he choose? What is he doing with the hat? Where will he put it next?" Pause frequently to let your child talk.

What kinds of books are best?

- **Books on topics your child is interested in, like animals, dinosaurs or ballerinas**
- **Nursery rhymes or simple stories about everyday activities**
- **Stories with only one or two sentences per page and lots of pictures**

*Born Learning*SM is a public engagement campaign helping parents, caregivers and communities create early learning opportunities for young children. Designed to support you in your critical role as a child's first teacher, *Born Learning* educational materials are made available through the efforts of United Way, United Way Success By 6 and Civitas. For more information, visit us online at www.bornlearning.org.



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Better Beginnings with Books

Books for Young Infants - Birth to 8 Months

- Time for Bed, Mem Fox, 1997 Illustrated by Jane Dyer, Orlando:Harcourt New York
- Love You Forever, Robert Munsch, Illustrated by Shelia McGraw
- What Is It?, Tana Hoban, New York, Greenwillow

Books for Mobile Infants - 8 to 18 months

- Guess How Much I Love You, Sam McBratney, 1996, Illustrated by Anita Jeram, Cambridge: Candlewick Press
- It Looked Like Spilt Milk, Charles G. Shaw, 1947, New York: Scholastic, Inc.
- Night-Night Baby, Elizabeth Hathon, 2000, A Touch and Feel Book, New York: Penguin

Books for Toddlers - 18 Months to 36 Months

- Goodnight Moon, Margaret Wise Brown, 1947, Illustrated by Clement Hurd, New York: Harper Collins
- The Very Busy Spider, Eric Carle, 1984, New York: Philomel Books
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle, 1981, New York: Philomel Books
- Are You My Mother?, P.D. Eastman, 1960 New York: Random House
- The Carrot Seed, Ruth Krauss, 1945, Illustrated by Crockett Johnson, New York: Harper Collins
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, Bill Martin, Jr., 1983 New York: Henry Holt and Company
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Michael Rosen, 1989, Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books
- The Cheerios Play Book, Lee Wade, 1998, New York: Little Simon
- The Napping House, Audrey Wood, 1984, Illustrated by Don Wood, San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich
- How Do I Feel?, Pamela Cote, illustrator, 1997, Boston: Houghton

For Three and Four Year Old Children

- Anno's Counting Book, Mitsumasa Anno, 1997, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell
- Happy Birthday Moon, Frank Asch, 1985, New York; Simon & Schuster
- Stone Soup, Marcia Brown, 1947, New York; Simon & Schuster
- Goodnight Moon, Margaret Wise Brown, 1947, Illustrated by Clement Hurd, New York: Harper Collins
- Runaway Bunny, Margaret Wise Brown, 1947, Illustrated by Clement Hurd, New York: Harper Collins
- The Very Busy Spider, Eric Carle, 1984, New York: Philomel Books
- Freight Train, Donald Crews, 1978, New York: Greenwillow
- Growing Vegetable Soup, Lois Ehlert, 1987, San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich
- In The Tall Grass, Denise Fleming, 1991, New York: Henry Holt
- The Little Red Hen, Paul Galdone, 1975. New York: Scholastic
- Amazing Grace, Mary Hoffman, 1991, Dial
- Rosie's Walk, Pat Hutchins, 1971, New York: Macmillan Children's Books
- Peter's Chair, Ezra Jack Keats, 1967, New York: Harper Collins
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See, Bill Martin, Jr., 1983, New York: Henry Hold & Company
- Pretend You're A Cat, Jean Marzollo, 1990, Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, New York: Dial Books for Young Readers
- Blueberries for Sal, Robert McCloskey, 1948, New York: Viking
- Bread, Bread, Bread, Ann Morris, 1989, Photo-Illustrated by Ken Heyman, New York: Lothrop
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Laura Numeroff, 1985, Illustrated by Felicia Bond, New York: Harper Collins
- The Relatives Came, Cynthia Rylant, 1985, Illustrated by Stephen Gammell, New York: and Simon & Schuster
- Where the Wild Thing Are, Maurice Sendak, 1963, New York: Harper Collins
- Caps for Sale, Ephyr Slobodkina, 1940, New York: Harper Collins
- Ira Sleeps Over, Bernard Waber, 1972, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company
- Noisy Nora, Rosemary Wells, 1973, New York: Dial