

Birth to 6 Months



Make reading a part of every day.

Babies love spending lap time with you and hearing your voice. (You'll love it, too!)

Read and talk with your baby often.

Babbling (the sounds babies make) is early language. Talk, sing songs, play games and read together with your baby. This helps your baby's language grow.

Babies find out about their world by using all their senses. When you share a book, your baby is watching, hearing, grasping and sometimes tasting!

Relax and have fun with your baby!

Keep board and cloth books within your baby's reach. Prop up board books along the edges of your baby's bed.

Babies love simple picture books.
Look for large, clear pictures.

Babies like to:

- look at faces, especially baby faces
- look at pictures of animals
- hear and make sounds
- listen to rhymes

Read for Life is a Family Based literacy program in Tulare County that encourages parents to provide the foundation for reading beginning at birth.
www.readforlife.org



Sponsored by First 5 Tulare County.
Funded by Proposition 10.

Birth to 6 Months



Visit your local library and local bookstore as often as possible.

Start now with a special reading time before naps and bedtime. This will become a signal for your baby to relax.

Some good books for babies up to six-months old:

My Very First Mother Goose.
by Iona Opie

The Big Book of Beautiful Babies
by David Ellwand

Pet Animals - Farm Animals
by Lucy Cousins

Moo Baa La La La!
by Sandra Boynton

Clap Hands
by Helen Oxenbury

Where's Spot
by Eric Hill

All Fall Down
by Helen Oxenbury

Brown Sugar Babies
by Charles R. Smith

Pat the Bunny
by Dorothy Kunhardt

Maisy's Favorite Animals
by Lucy Cousins

Tickle, Tickle
by Helen Oxenbury

Any simple board or cloth books that interest your child.



9



Months

Make reading a part of every day.

Babies find out about their world and language. Point out and name animals, household objects, people, colors and shapes in books.

Relax and have fun with your baby!

Babies love rhymes and songs. Sing and listen to music whenever you can.

Read often, for short time periods.

Babies can sit and hold books. Some babies may even begin turning pages.

Babies are learning that speech includes "taking turns." When you read and talk to your baby, pause as though you're having a conversation.

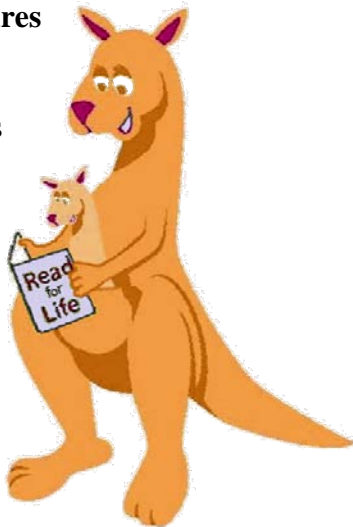
Choose books with few words on each page and books with bold, clear pictures.

Babies like to see pictures

- of animals
- of faces
- of familiar objects

Babies like to hear

- simple stories
- repeating words
- rhyming
- goodnight stories



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Months

Visit your local library and local bookstore as often as possible. Check out story hour!

Some good books for a nine-month old:

Me Baby, You Baby
by Ashley Wolff

Old McDonald
by Rosemary Wells

Baby Dance
by Ann Taylor

Whose Mouse Are You?
by Robert Kraus

Goodnight Moon
by Margaret Wise Brown

A Hat for Minerva Louise
by Janet Morgan Stoeke

Have You Seen My Duckling?
by Nancy Tafuri

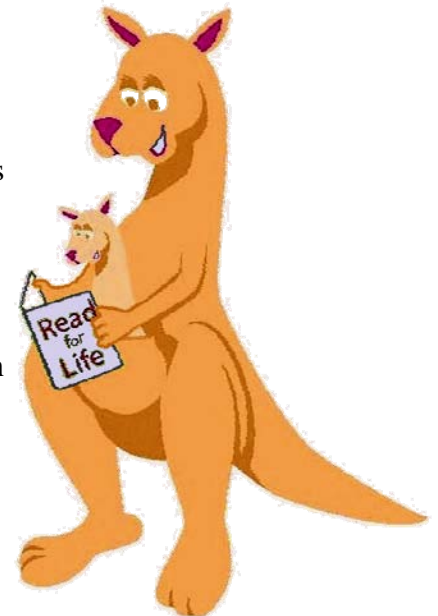
Jamberry
by Bruce Degen

A Good Day
By Kevin Henkes

Hush Little Baby
by Alik

Bear Snores On
by Karma Wilson

Color Zoo
by Lois Ehlert



1 Year



1 Year



Make reading a part of every day.

Read and talk a lot with your baby.

Babies are listening to what you are saying all the time. Some babies may say their first words.

Encourage imitation - "The cow says moo!"

Babies learn by watching you. Play games like Pat-a-cake, Eensy Weensy Spider, and Peek-a-boo.

Babies begin to have favorite books. They like to hold the books by themselves and to turn the pages.

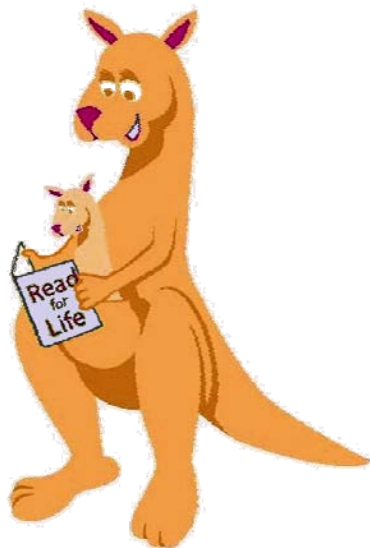
Babies often need to be doing something else while listening to a story. That's OK.

Relax and have fun with your baby! If he or she wants to close the book on your hand, go with it.

Babies love their books as much as their toys. Give a baby a stack of books for quiet time - - board books, cloth books, and paperbacks.

Keep books within baby's reach.

Library books can go in a special place.



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Visit your local library and local bookstore as often as possible. Start taking your child to storytimes.

Choose books with:

- simple stories
- repetition
- humor
- stories where your child can guess what happens on the next page

Some good books for a one-year-old:

"More More More" Said the Baby
by Vera Williams

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
by Laura Numeroff

The Poky Little Puppy
by Janette Lowrey

Where's Spot?
by Eric Hill

Fish Eyes
by Lois Ehlert

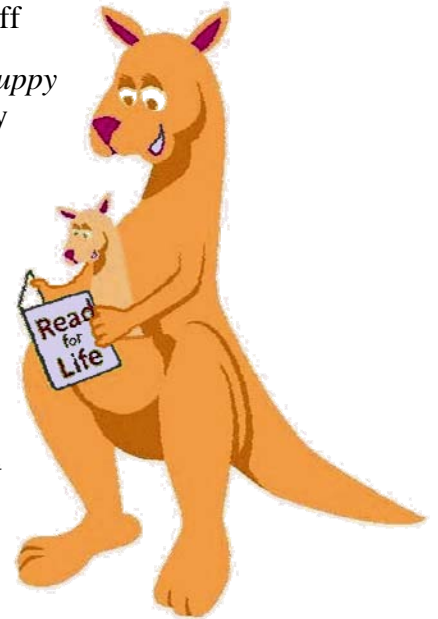
10, 9, 8
by Molly Bang

My Friend Rabbit
by Eric Rohman

This Little Piggy
by Jane Yolen

Is Your Mama a Llama?
by Deborah Guarino

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
by Bill Martin Jr.



18 Months



18 Months



Make reading a part of every day.

Many toddlers have a short attention span. That's OK! Reading time can be short, or they may want to switch books or rush to favorite pages quickly. Be patient; reading aloud will increase their attention.

Toddlers see the details in pictures. They like to point and name and ask "What's that?" over and over again.

When they point to a familiar object, expand on it by telling them how to use it or what it does.

Toddlers can talk with you! Use books to begin conversations and talk about things you've done together.

Toddlers need to see words and pictures everywhere. Have books, magazines and catalogs to read and look at.

Talk about the pictures you see with your child.

Write and talk about writing. A child's scribbles are early writing – give him or her lots of scratch paper and teach your child not to write in books.

Go to the library often.

Choose books with:

- lots of everyday objects
- simple stories
- predictability
- humor

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Visit your local library and bookstore as often as possible. Go to storytimes whenever you can.

Try turning off the TV! Your child will learn much faster by interacting with you and friends or siblings.

Some good books for a one-and-a-half year old:

Good Night Gorilla
by Peggy Rathmann

Zoom City
by Thatcher Hurd

Guess How Much I Love You!
by Sam McBratney

Chika Chicka Boom Boom
by Lois Ehlert

Mice Squeak, We Speak
by Arnold Shapiro

Pretend You're a Cat
by Jean Marzollo

Trucks
by Byron Barton

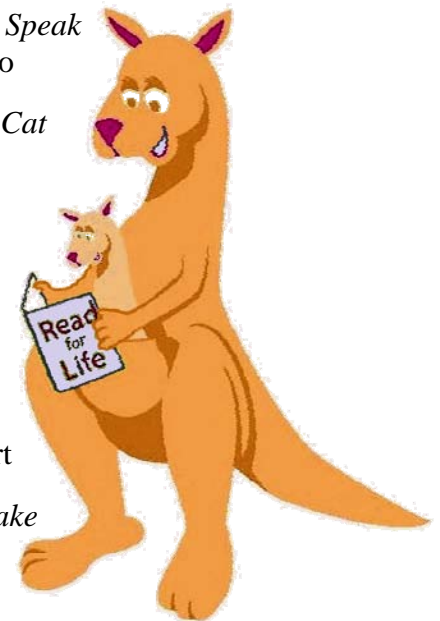
Freight Train
by Donald Crews

Who Said Moo?
by Harriet Ziefert

Benny Bakes a Cake
by Eve Rice

On Mother's Lap
by Ann Herbert Scott

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle



2 Years



Make reading a part of every day.

Two-year-old's brains are developing very quickly. The brain is 90% of adult size by age 5. Nourish your child's healthy brain development.

Two-year-olds are very independent and may want to do things all by themselves, including choosing books and telling the story their own way.

Two-year-olds can learn a lot. Reading new stories and poems adds new words to your toddler's speech.

Two-year-olds learn from stories they hear. They learn about their world and about getting along with others.

Don't force reading. If your toddler wants to stop or do something else, that's OK.

Use reading as a beginning for conversations. Here's an example: "Oh, look! There's a picture of the moon. Do you remember when we saw the full moon last week?"

Try turning off the TV. Play with your child. When he or she is tired, cuddle and tell or read stories.

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2 Years



Visit your local library and local bookstore as often as possible. Many libraries have story times for toddlers.

Choose books with:

- lots of everyday objects
- simple stories
- the same words repeated over and over
- humor

Some good books for a two-year-old:

Round Is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes
by Roseanne Thong

I Had a Hippopotamus!
by Hector Viveros Lee

Jesse Bear What Will You Wear?
by Nancy Carlstrom

Sam Who Never Forgets
by Eve Rice

Fire Truck
by Peter Sis

The Snowy Day
by Ezra Jack Keats

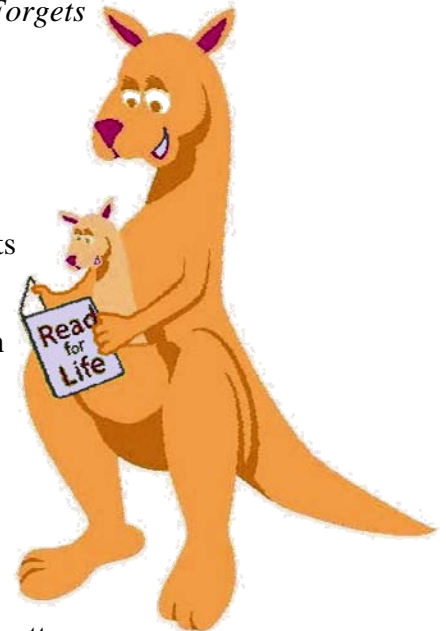
Little Gorilla
by Ruth Bomstein

Sheep in a Jeep
by Nancy Shaw

Good Night Owl
by Pat Hutchins

On Mother's Lap
by Ann Herbert Scott

Mother, Mother, I Want Another
by Maria Robbins



3 Years



Make reading and writing a part of every day.

Toddlers like to hear stories over and over and over and over again.

Three-year-olds may be able to guess what the characters will do next. Talk about the story!

While you are reading a book some three-year olds may run, hop, jump, or stand on one leg!

Three-year-olds like to write, scribble and draw. Have paper, pencils, crayons and markers where they are easy to reach.

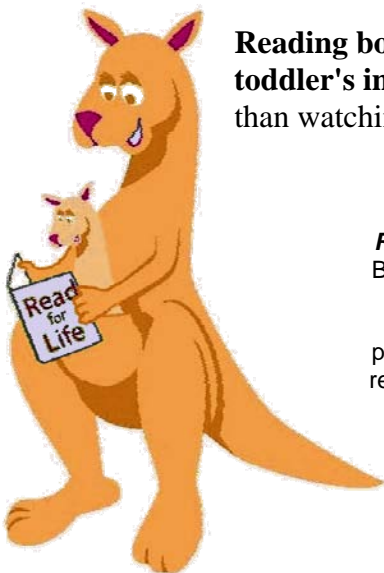
Three-year-olds like to pretend to read their own books.

Some three-year-olds can remember nursery rhymes and fill in words or phrases in favorite books.

Let your toddler see you reading - the mail, a newspaper, a catalog, a cookbook, or a novel. Buy books when possible - yard sales and library book sales are good places for bargains.

Reading books exercises your toddler's imagination more than watching TV.

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3 Years



Visit your local library and bookstore as often as possible. Attend storytimes wherever they are given.

Choose books with:

- lots of conversations between characters
- friendships between characters
- humor

Let your child help you select books.

Some good books for a three-year-old:

Each Peach Pear Plum
by Janet Ahlberg

Where the Wild Things Are
by Maurice Sendak

All the Colors of the Earth
by Sheila Hamanaka

Grandma's Purple Flowers
by Adjoa Burrowes

Corduroy
by Don Freeman

The Little Red Hen
by Margot Zemach

Can You Top That?
by W. Nikola-Lisa

The Carrot Seed
by Ruth Krauss

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle

Stella and Roy Go Camping
by Ashley Wolff

A House is a House for Me
by Mary Ann Hoberman



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Years



Make reading and writing a part of every day.

Four-year-olds are beginning to:

- figure out the difference between real and make-believe
- make up their own stories
- name shapes, colors and letters
- listen for rhymes, play with sound

Some four-year-olds can hold a pencil and "write" notes by scribbling.

Four-year-olds love to make up stories, tell jokes, and sing songs.

Some four-year-olds spend a lot of time reading on their own. Keep books within easy reach. Choose books with adventures - you can travel far away with a book.

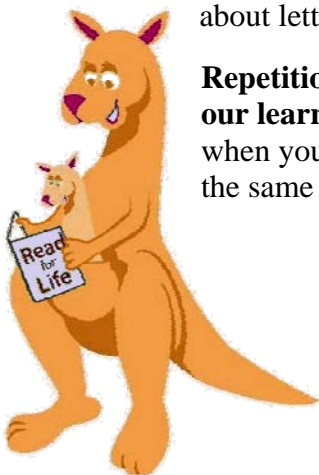
Preschoolers like to expand their worlds beyond family, but they want to feel safe at the same time. Familiar books and comforting stories can calm their fears.

There are lots of shapes, sizes and colors in books. Talk about these, add them up, and look at the sameness and differences.

Start looking at alphabet and counting books together. Your child wants to know about letters and numbers.

Repetition is important in all our learning. Don't get frustrated when you get a tenth request for the same book!

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Years



Visit your local library and local bookstore as often as possible. Find out about other story times in your area.

Some good books for a Four-year-old:

Bedtime for Frances
by Russell Hoban

Bein' with You This Way
by W. Nikola-Lisa

Make Way For Ducklings
by Robert McCloskey

The Tale of Peter Rabbit
by Beatrix Potter

The Gingerbread Man
by Paul Galdone

The Little House
by Virginia Lee Burton

Road Builders
by B.G. Hennessey

Max Found Two Sticks
by Brian Pinckney

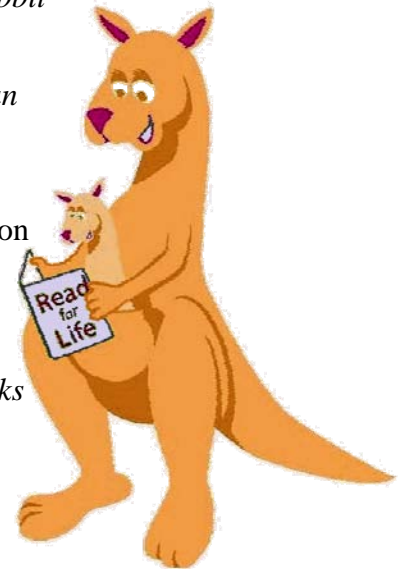
Bunny Cakes
by Rosemary Wells

Elizabethi's Doll
by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

We're Going on a Bear Hunt
by Michael Rosen

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse
by Kevin Henkes

The Wolf's Chicken Stew
by Keiko Kasza



5 Years



Make reading and writing a part of every day.

Five-year-olds often:

- draw pictures and try to use letters and sounds to write names, lists or labels.
- like to learn about new things.
- can name shapes and colors.
- know many of the letters in the alphabet, and matching sounds.

By age five, children have developed nearly 90% of their adult brain size. Now they need plenty of brain exercise. Read, play games, talk, listen to music, tell stories, draw and paint as often as possible.

Five-year-olds love to make up stories, tell jokes, and sing songs.

Read or say nursery rhymes and sing songs together.

Share books with your five-year-old that are full of real life: science, nature, how things work, families.

Five-year olds can recognize letters in print and know their sounds. Encourage this early reading, but do not worry about mistakes they make.

Talk about the books you are reading together.

Read chapter books that you can't finish in one sitting. Your child will anticipate the next installment.

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5 Years



Visit your local library and local bookstore as often as possible. Ask your librarian for suggestions of beginning chapter books.

Some good books for a five-year-old:

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
by William Steig

Officer Buckle and Gloria
by Peggy Rathmann

Frog and Toad Are Friends
by Arnold Lobel

A Chair for My Mother
by Vera Williams

Too Many Tamales
by Gary Soto

Winnie-the-Pooh
by A.A. Milne

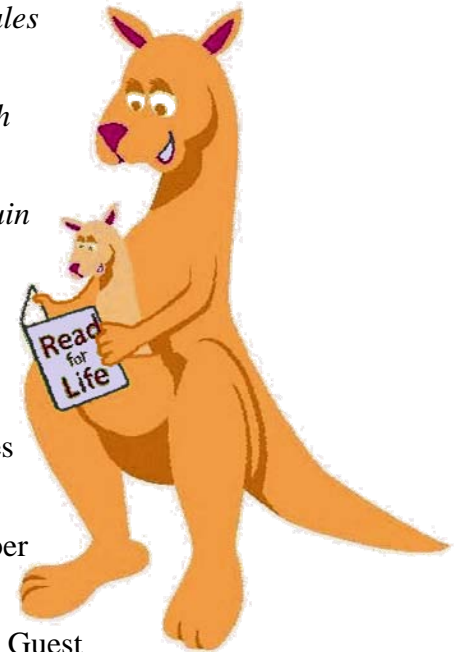
Tacky the Penguin
by Helen Lester

The Mitten
by Jan Brett

Chester's Way
by Kevin Henkes

Ira Sleeps Over
by Bernard Waber

Iris and Walter
by Elissa Haden Guest



Favorite versions of fairy tales such as: *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Goldilocks*, *Henny-Penny*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*



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