

## Let your child:

- **Sit close to you** or on your lap.
- **Tell** you stories.
- Read them **labels and signs** wherever you go.

*When young children are cared for by others, be sure books are a regular part of every day.*



***Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.***

-Emilie Buchwald

***There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.***

-Jacqueline Kennedy

Prepared for you by Donna Kaye, early literacy specialist

## What's up with Language?



**Babies** love the sound of a reading voice. Reading aloud to infants stimulates brain cell growth and the formation of valuable learning connections.

### **What's beginning with language at...**

**2 months** - Cooing (making long vowel sounds)

**4 to 6 months** - Babbling  
(adding consonants-even ones they never hear)

**7 months** - Recognizing what sounds familiar and what doesn't

**8 months** - Assigning meaning to words

## What works when reading to newborns to 6 month olds...

**Read anything you enjoy**, as well as their new books.

**Sing and say rhymes.**

**Gaze** at each other.

**Respond** to their cries, coos, smiles, and movements

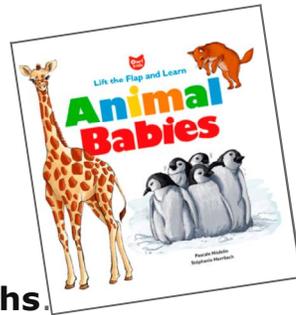
**Gently touch**, hold, and stroke them.



## What 6 months to 1 year olds like in books...

**Brightly colored** board books.

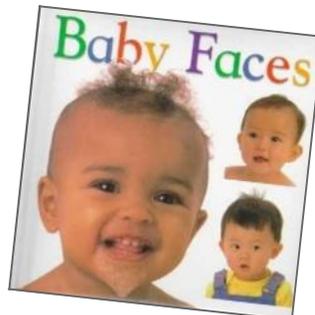
Simple **pictures**.



Putting **books into their mouths**.

**Pictures** of familiar objects.

Photos of **babies**.



**Preschoolers** like to tell stories. They delight in memorizing their favorite books and "reading" them back to you. This is a great time to begin to encourage them to choose library books to bring home.

## What's beginning with language...

**Preschoolers continue to develop the power of using language. They continue to form basic literacy concepts:**

- Print is speech written down.
- Printed words in a book don't change.
- Stories in books have a structure that conveys meaning

## What works when reading with 3 to 5 year olds...

**Ask them simple questions about the story.**

**Visit the library and bookstore** and choose books.

**Go to story times.**



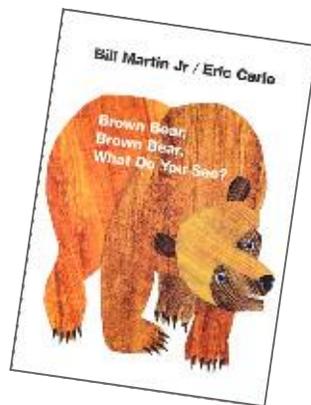
- **Hear** the same book over and over.
- **Move** around while you are reading
- **Turn pages.**
- **Fill in words** in stories they know.
- **Point** to and **name** pictures.
- **Make sounds** – animal noises, trains, and silly sounds.

### What 2 to 3 year olds like in books . . .

**Paper pages** as well as board books.

**Silly and funny** books.

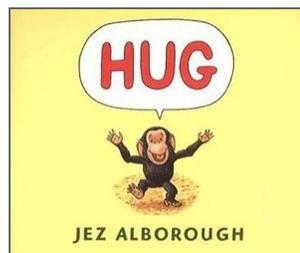
**Playing with language.**



**Rhymes, rhythms, and repetitive** wording.

**Books about:**

- Children and families.
- Making friends.
- Food, animals, trucks and big machines.



Language learning explodes during the second year. At about 18 months kids figure out what it's all about and start asking, "What's that?"

### What's beginning with language at...

**12 to 14 months** - Identifying objects and learning nouns. Following simple one-step requests: "Get the ball."

**14 to 18 months** - Learning new words proceeds slowly.

**18 months** - Eureka! Toddlers learn many new words a day and start speaking in short sentences.

### What works when reading to 1 to 2 year olds...

**Share books at bedtime.**

**Take books with you** to read when you have to wait.

**Go to the library and bookstores.** Find out about special times for babies and toddlers.

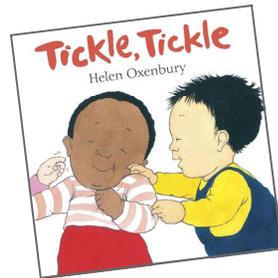
## During story time let your child:

- Move around while you are reading.
- Choose and hold the book.
- Hear the same book over and over.

## What 1 to 2 year olds like in books...

**Sturdy books** they can handle and carry.

**Lift the flap** books.

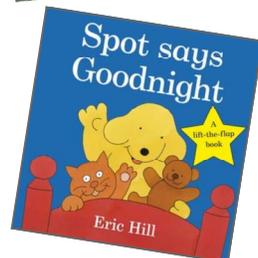


**Photos and pictures** of children eating, playing, bathing, sleeping.



**Goodnight books** for bedtime.

Only a **few words** on the page.



**Toddlers** are beginning to learn the structure of language. They love to talk and will insist on reading the books they want again and again.



## What's beginning with language with 2 to 3 year olds...

**Toddlers are forming basic literacy concepts:**

Print is speech written down.

Printed words in a book don't change.

Stories in books have a structure that conveys meaning.

## What works when reading with toddlers...

**Place books down low**

where your child can reach them.

Let your child:

- **Choose** books to read

