



Family Literacy

Tip Sheets

Books for Infants and Toddlers

- Look for books that have good rhythm and rhyme in them. These help young children understand how language works.
- Babies' eyesight is still developing. Bold contrast in pictures is important.
- Photos of real objects help children to recognize things in their world better than abstract or stylized drawings.
- Playing with language is a great way to help children learn new vocabulary.
- When pointing to pictures in a book, say the "word" that goes with the picture. Connect it to something in their life, for example, "This kitty looks like Auntie Barbara's kitty doesn't it?"

Here are some great books that feature these characteristics:

Infants

- Baby Faces.** A series by Roberta Grobel Interater
- Barnyard Dance.** Sandra Boyton (and others in the series)
- Bright Baby Series.** Priddy Books
- Giant Flap Book series.** Dorling Kindersley (DK)
- Peek a Boo! Book series** Dorling Kindersley (DK)
- Touch and Feel Book series.** Dorling Kindersley (DK)
- Gossie and Gertie series.** Olivier Dunrea
- Monkey and Me.** Emily Gravett
- Sing a Song of Mother Goose.** Barbara Reid
- Who's Hiding Series.** Barrons Education

Toddlers

- Busy Fingers.** C.W. Bowie
- Hands Can.** Cheryl Williams Hudson
- I Went Walking.** Sue Williams
- Little Quack.** Lauren Thompson
- One Duck Stuck.** Phyllis Root
- The Eentsy, Weentsy Spider: Fingerplays and Action Rhymes.** Joanna Cole
- The Napping House.** Audrey Wood

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Picture and Pattern Books

- Different books and stories appeal to children at different times.
- A good picture book allows for the story to be told just by “reading” the pictures.
- Look for books that relate to what your child is interested in. Follow their lead in choosing books to share. This can include fiction and non-fiction selections.
- Descriptive language and clear illustrations often add to the meaning of the story.
- Engage your child in the story with questions like, “I wonder what happens next?” or “How would you handle that?”
- Encourage your child to “chime in” with the repetitive parts of the book.

The following is a list of predictable pattern books you might like to share:

“I Can’t” Said the Ant. Polly Cameron.

Are You My Mother? P.D. Eastman.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? Bill Martin Jr.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

Chicken Soup with Rice. Maurice Sendak.

Each Peach Pear Plum. Janet Ahlberg.

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed. Various authors

I Know An Old Lady. R. Bonnie.

If you give a Moose a Muffin. Laura Numeroff and others in her series

Little Red Hen. (retold). Various authors

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile. Bernard Waber

Over in the Meadow. John Langstaff

The Grouchy Ladybug. Eric Carle.

The Little Dog Laughed and Other Nursery Rhymes. Lucy Cousins

The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Eric Carle

Too much Noise. Ann McGovern

What do you do with a Kangaroo? M. Mayer. Scholastic

You Look Ridiculous, Said the Rhinoceros to the Hippopotamus. Bernard Waber

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