



Reach Out and Read Milestones

Suggestions for how to read with your child as they grow

Reading can be a fun activity for parents and children to do together to connect, learn and grow. This handout suggests ways for parents to read with their children to help them develop.

You know your child best. Talk and read with your baby in the way that works best for you and your family. What matters most is that you hold your child close and read together to create those everyday moments that matter.

	Newborn & 3-5 Day Visits	1 Month & 2 Month Visits	4 Month Visit	6 Month Visit	9 Month Visit	12 Month Visit
Books your baby will like	Any book that you love! Books about bringing the baby home, how much you love your baby	Books with lullabies, rhyming books, and baby faces	Board and cloth books, touch and feel books Bright colors and black and white books Interactive, sing-songy books Books with baby faces and animals, Peek-a-boo books		Board books Rhyming books Baby's first word books Picture books	
Your baby and the book	YOUR BABY LOVES YOU AND JUST WANTS TO HEAR YOUR VOICE- CHOOSE A BOOK THAT YOU WILL ENJOY READING OUT LOUD.		BOOKS ARE LISTED AT THE AGE THEY CAN BE INTRODUCED TO A CHILD, BUT YOU CAN CONTINUE TO USE THESE BOOKS BEYOND THAT AGE. IF YOUR CHILD STILL ENJOYS THE BOOK, IT IS STILL A GOOD BOOK TO READ!			
	It's ok if it seems like your baby isn't listening while you read the book. They are learning and connecting every time you speak.		Babies like exploring the world in different ways. Your baby might grab, drop, throw, or even chew on the book. That doesn't mean they aren't interested! Play peek-a-boo with the book. See if reading calms the baby.		Let your child help turn the page. Name things on the page and ask your child to point at them.	
Connecting with your baby	YOUR BABY CAN EXPRESS THEMSELVES WITHOUT WORDS. HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR BABY - TALK TO THEM IN A HIGHER PITCHED, SING-SONGY VOICE (CALLED "PARENTESE") ABOUT EVERY DAY TOPICS LIKE WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND HOW YOU ARE FEELING.					
	Your baby loves the sound of your voice. Talk and sing with your baby whenever you can. They are learning so much from you.	Making funny faces and animal noises might make your baby laugh.		Engage your baby with the book-point to things, play peek-a-boo, ask questions and see how they respond.		Follow your child's interest when reading- what interests them on the page, what pictures do they want to focus on?
	ROUTINES BRING A SENSE OF SECURITY. SHARE BOOKS TOGETHER AT NAP TIME AND BEDTIME. ENGAGE YOUR CHILD WITH DIFFERENT VOICES, FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND ANIMAL SOUNDS.					

*Remember that babies grow and develop at different rates. These suggestions are just guidelines. However, if you have concerns about your baby's development please speak to your clinician about what you are seeing.



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Books your baby will like

15 Month & 18 Month Visits	24 Month & 30 Month Visits	3 Year Visit	4 Year Visit	5 Year Visit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board books Books with simple rhymes, predictable text Books on teeth brushing, daily routines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board or paperback Search and find books Counting and alphabet books Potty training books Books about the child's current interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paperbacks Books on sharing, younger brothers and sisters, feelings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paperbacks Books about going to school Books that promote parent-child-sibling relationships, friendships and how you relate to others 	

BOOKS ARE LISTED AT THE AGE THEY CAN BE INTRODUCED TO A CHILD, BUT YOU CAN CONTINUE TO USE THESE BOOKS BEYOND THAT AGE. IF YOUR CHILD STILL ENJOYS THE BOOK, IT IS STILL A GOOD BOOK TO READ!

Your baby and the book

<p>Your baby does not have to be sitting down to enjoy a book with you—they are listening, even if they are moving around!</p>	<p>Point to colors and count different objects on the page.</p>	<p>Ask what and where questions, like: “where’s the dog on the page?” or “what is that?”</p> <p>Point out letters and numbers</p>	<p>Ask why (“why did he do that?”) how (“How did the boy lose the ball?”) and would (“Would you do that?”) questions</p>	<p>Ask “what happens next” in familiar stories</p> <p>Point out the letters in your child’s name</p> <p>Relate the story to your child’s life and experiences</p>
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READ BOOKS TOGETHER ABOUT NATURE, THEN GO ON AN ADVENTURE. READ A STORY ABOUT CARS, TRAINS OR BUSES BEFORE GOING ON A RIDE. READ A STORY ABOUT COOKING, THEN MAKE SOMETHING TOGETHER IN THE KITCHEN.

Connecting with your baby

<p>Respond to your child when they talk to you, ask questions and see how they respond</p> <p>Follow your child’s interest when reading—what interests them on the page, what pictures do they want to focus on?</p>	<p>Praise your child when they answer your questions about the book.</p> <p>Count things or identify different things on the page</p>	<p>Encourage the child to have their own opinions on what they are reading: “What do you think about that? What would you do?”</p>	<p>Let the child lead the reading, have them tell the story on the pages.</p>
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ROUTINES BRING A SENSE OF SECURITY. SHARE BOOKS TOGETHER AT NAP TIME AND BEDTIME. ENGAGE YOUR CHILD WITH DIFFERENT VOICES, FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND ANIMAL SOUNDS.

Additional Tips

Reading together should be a fun activity, not a chore. Follow your child’s lead; they might not always be ready to read with you, and that’s ok! A few minutes every day is enough.

Use community resources whenever available. Take your child to story time, the library and nearby museums.

Books can help children to see themselves and learn about others. Whenever possible, choose books with pictures and stories about **families that don’t look like yours** as well as **families that do**.

