

MILESTONES OF EARLY LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Babies learn best from caring adults. From birth, it's important for parents to notice and respond to what interests their child. Reading aloud and talking together every day creates secure relationships and a strong foundation for learning. Books should be part of *every* family's naptime, playtime, and bedtime routines.



	6 TO 12 MONTHS	12 TO 24 MONTHS	2 TO 3 YEARS	3 TO 4 YEARS	4 TO 5 YEARS
MOTOR DEVELOPMENT What your child is doing	holds head steady sits in lap without support grasps book, puts in mouth drops, throws book	holds and walks with book no longer puts book in mouth right away turns board book pages	learns to turn paper pages, 2 to 3 pages at a time starts to scribble	turns pages one at a time, and from left to right sits still for longer stories scribbles and draws	starts to copy letters and numbers sits still for even longer stories
COMMUNICATION AND COGNITION What your child is saying and learning	smiles, babbles, coos likes and wants your voice likes pictures of baby faces begins to say "ma", "ba", "da" responds to own name pats picture to show interest	says single words, then 2- to 4-word phrases gives book to adult to read points at pictures turns book right-side up names pictures, follows simple stories	adds 2-4 new words per day names familiar objects likes the same book again and again completes sentences and rhymes in familiar stories	recites whole phrases from books moves toward letter recognition begins to detect rhyme pretends to read to dolls and stuffed animals	can listen longer recognizes numbers, letters can retell familiar stories can make rhymes learning letter names and sounds
ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE What parents can do Ask questions and wait for your child to answer Read and speak in your first language	talk back and forth with your baby; make eye contact cuddle, sing, talk, play, read point at and name things: nose, ball, baby, dog follow baby's cues for "more" or "stop" play games such as "peek-a- boo" or "pat-a-cake"	smile and answer when your child speaks or points let your child help turn the pages; keep naming things use books in family routines: naptime, playtime, bedtime; on the potty; in the car, bus use books to calm or distract your child while waiting	ask <i>"Where's the dog?"</i> or <i>"What is that?"</i> be willing to read the same book again and again as you read, talk about the pictures keep using books in daily routines	ask <i>"What happens next?"</i> in familiar stories point out letters, numbers point out words and pictures that begin with the same sound together, make up stories about the pictures	relate the story to your child's own experiences let your child see <i>you</i> read ask your child to tell the story encourage writing, drawing point out the letters in your child's name
WHAT TO READ	board and cloth books; books with baby faces; nursery rhymes	board books; rhyming books; picture books; books that name things	rhyming books; picture books that tell stories; search and find books	picture books that tell longer stories; counting and alphabet books	fairy tales and legends; books with longer stories, fewer pictures

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