

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

A Good Day. Kevin Henkes
Busy Fingers. C.W. Bowie
Hands Can. Cheryl Willis Hudson
I Went Walking. Sue Williams
Little Quack. Lauren Thompson
Little White Rabbit. Kevin Henkes
Not a Box. Antoinette Portis
One Duck Stuck. Phyllis Root
The Eentsy, Weentsy Spider: Fingerplays and Action Rhymes. Joanna Cole
The Napping House. Audrey Wood
There's a Hole in the Log on the Bottom of the Lake. Loren Long

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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:

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
Fox in Socks. Dr. Seuss
Green Eggs and Ham. Dr. Seuss
Goodnight Moon. Margaret Wise Brown
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 Cat in the Hat. Dr. Seuss
The Grouchy Ladybug. Eric Carle
The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Eric Carle
There Was An Old Lady series. Lucille Colandro
Too much Noise. Ann McGovern
What do you do with a Kangaroo? M. Mayer. Scholastic