

Parent Pages

Babies Are Born To Read

Babies who are read to grow into children who love to read when they experience the warmth and pleasure of cuddling with parents while listening to stories. Reading to babies right from birth stimulates their mind, develops language skills, and lays a foundation for later reading success. However, reading aloud to a young baby does present a unique set of challenges. Consider these suggestions for making your book sharing times enjoyable and successful!

Pick the best time to read. Choose a time when you and your baby are rested and in a good mood. Stop and try again later if your baby gets restless or upset.

Show your baby the book. Point to and talk about the pictures in the books. At this age, it is not necessary to read the actual words on each page. Babies enjoy hearing the sound of your voice so talk in your most excited voice!

Let your baby play with the book. Babies experience the world around them through all their senses; let your baby hold, chew, and throw books. A baby that plays with books is a baby that is comfortable with books.

Have fun! Remember to touch and hug your baby the entire time and make reading an experience your child wants to repeat often.

Share books with your baby everyday. Just a few minutes will make a difference in your child's language acquisition and reading readiness skills

Board books are perfect first books for babies – they are sturdy and can withstand considerable loving from eager babies. Very simple stories about everyday events, objects, and people are good choices for babies. Babies change dramatically in the first 24 months; consider the suggestions below in order to choose the most developmentally appropriate books for your little one!

For **newborns up to 6 months**, look for books with simple geometric images that are easy for a newborn to focus on. Try Tana Hoban's books *Who Are They?* and *Black on White* or *I Kissed the Baby* by Mary Murphy. Infants also like looking at human faces – check out the *Look Baby!* Books by Margaret Miller.

Infants **6 to 12 Months old** are beginning to control their movements and interact with their environment. Choose sturdy and interactive books – books with flaps, textures, smells, and sounds – to encourage exploration and stimulate your baby's senses. Books such as the *That's Not My . . . series* by Fiona Watt, *Fuzzy, Fuzzy, Fuzzy!* by Sandra Boynton, *Where is Spot?* by Eric Hill, and *Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt are wonderful for exploring babies.

Children **12 to 24 Months** enjoy books that are repetitive and predictable. They will begin to anticipate what comes next in a book, possibly even inserting words or phrases from the story. This reinforces the connection between spoken language and written words – a critical reading skill. Read lots of nursery rhymes and poetry books to reinforce your child's awareness of the sounds of our language. Books such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, *Barnyard Dance* by Sandra Boynton, *Hug* by Jez Alborough, and *Mrs. Wishy Washy* by Joy Cowley are wonderful choices for this age. Point to images on a page and name them; this helps increase vocabulary. Also, talk about what is going on in the story; this helps develop comprehension skills.

Books for Babies Birth to 24 Months

1. *Ten, Nine, Eight*

By Molly Bang

2. *Moo, Baa, La, La, La*

By Sandra Boynton

3. *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?*

By Eric Carle

4. *Who Hops?*

By Katie Davis

5. *Tomie's Little Mother Goose*

By Tomie DePaola

6. *The Big Book of Beautiful Babies*

By David Ellwand

7. *Lunch*

By Denise Fleming

8. *Barnyard Banter*

By Denise Fleming

9. *Where is Baby's Belly Button?*

By Karen Katz

10. *Grow Up!*

By Nina Laden

11. *Peek-A-Who?*

By Nina Laden

12. *Here Are My Hands*

By Bill Martin, Jr.

13. *Tickle, Tickle*

By Helen Oxenbury

14. *Goodnight Gorilla*

By Peggy Rathmann

15. *There's a Wocket in My Pocket!*

By Dr. Seuss

16. *Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?*

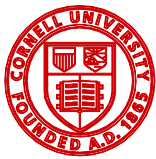
By Dr. Seuss

17. *Tails*

By Matthew Van Fleet

18. *I Went Walking*

By Sue Williams



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<https://www.human.cornell.edu/engagement/parenting-project>*

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