



where great stories begin

# MILESTONES OF EARLY LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

## NEWBORN TO 6 MONTHS

**TALK, SING, READ, PLAY** Right from birth, babies are listening, looking, and learning. So find, and enjoy, those everyday moments when you can talk, sing, read, and play together with your baby.



## 6 TO 12 MONTHS

holds head steady

sits in lap without support

grasps book, puts in mouth

drops, throws book

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

talk back and forth with you

baby; make eye contact

cuddle, talk, sing, read, play

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"

board and cloth books;

books with baby faces;

nursery rhymes

board books; rhyming books;

picture books; books that

name things

## 12 TO 24 MONTHS

holds and walks with book

no longer puts book in mouth right away

turns board book pages

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

smile and answer when you

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

board books; rhyming books;

picture books; books that

name things

## 2 TO 3 YEARS

learns to turn paper pages,

2 to 3 pages at a time

starts to scribble

adds 2-4 new words per day

names familiar objects

likes the same book again

and again

completes sentences and

rhymes in familiar stories

pretends to read to dolls

and stuffed animals

ask "Where's the dog?" or

"What is that?"

be willing to read the same

book again and again

as you read, talk about the

pictures

keep using books in daily

routines

rhyming books; picture

books that tell stories;

search and find books

## 3 TO 4 YEARS

turns pages one at a time,

and from left to right

sits still for longer stories

scribbles and draws

recites whole phrases

from books

moves toward letter

recognition

begins to detect rhyme

pretends to read to dolls

and stuffed animals

ask "What happens next?"

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

picture books that tell

longer stories; counting

and alphabet books

## 4 TO 5 YEARS

starts to copy letters

and numbers

sits still for even longer

stories

can listen longer

recognizes numbers, letters

can retell familiar stories

can make rhymes

learning letter names

and sounds

relate the story to your

child's own experiences

let your child see you read

ask your child to tell

the story

encourage writing, drawing

point out the letters in your

child's name

fewer pictures

books with longer stories,

fairly tales and legends;

WHAT TO READ

What parents can do

ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE

What your child is saying and learning

COMMUNICATION AND COGNITION

What your child is doing

MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

What your child is doing

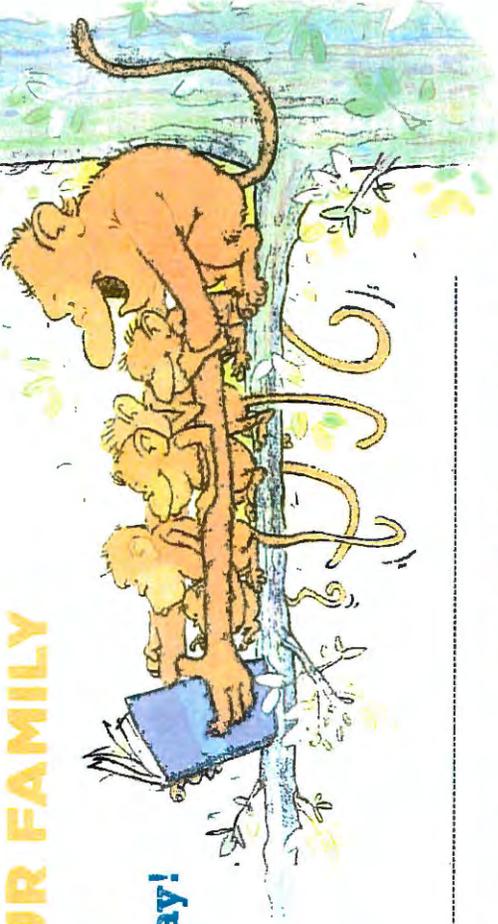
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## Read aloud every day!

It's **FUN**. It's **SPECIAL TIME** with your child. It helps children learn **LOTS** of **NEW WORDS**.



### IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START!

Babies love to be held and to hear your voice. Cuddle up together and look at board books.

### MAKE THE STORY COME ALIVE

Read with fun and excitement in your voice. Try loud, or soft, or silly voices.

### A FEW MINUTES IS OKAY

Young children may sit still for only a few minutes. They will listen longer as they grow.

### TALK ABOUT THE PICTURES

Make up stories to go with the pictures. Let your child join in!

### LET YOUR CHILD TURN THE PAGES

Babies and toddlers need help to turn board book pages. A three-year-old likes to turn paper pages without help.

### READ ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

Read at playtime, bedtime and naptime. Read any place you have to wait. Read at the playground or under a tree, in the car or on the bus.

### READ FAVORITE STORIES OVER AND OVER

Children love to hear the same stories again and again. This is how they learn.

### GO TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY TO GET MORE BOOKS

Your local library has lots of free books. Let your child choose which ones to bring home.

### ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STORY

Where is the moon? What do you think will happen next? Be sure to give your child time to answer!

When children are read to by people they love, children learn to love books!

using math words when they talk, sing, play and read books together every day.

**1** Sing songs, read books and play games involving numbers.

**2** Model counting objects by touching each object as you say the number.

**3** Emphasize words that describe size and other characteristics (big/little, fast/slow, high/low).

**4** Count things with your child as you go about your daily activities.

Ask the question, "How many...?"

**5** Talk about shapes in everyday life or pictures in books (circle, square, triangle).

