



# PARENT GUIDE TO READING ALOUD

Try to find time every day to share books.

When loved ones read with children, children learn to love books and begin to thrive.



## 6-12 MONTHS

## 12-24 MONTHS

## 2-3 YEARS

## 3-4 YEARS

## 4-5 YEARS

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TOGETHER

- 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; nap time, playtime, bedtime; on the potty; in the car, bus
- use books to calm or distract your child while waiting

- ask "Where's the dog?" or "Why 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

- ask "What happens next?" in familiar stories
- point out letters and numbers
- point out words and pictures that begin with the same sound
- make up stories about the pictures

- relate the story to your child's own experiences
- let your child see you read
- ask your child to tell the story
- encourage writing and drawing
- point out the letters in your child's name

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD

- 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

### WHAT NEW SKILLS YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN

- 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 and letters
- can retell familiar stories
- can make rhymes
- learning letter names and sounds

### 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

