Help your young child get ready to read...

Developing a love of reading, or print motivation, is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers when they begin school. Here’s how you can help your child become interested in books:

- Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!

- Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.

- Visit your public library often. Make it a special night or day of the week and make a big deal about it.

- Let toddlers choose the books they want to read or have read to them.

- Give books as gifts.

- Very young children have a short attention span, so keep reading activities brief and fun.

- Share rhymes and songs that young children enjoy. Keeping books fun will keep them coming back for more.

Children who enjoy books will want to learn to read and are more likely to become lifelong readers!

Book of the Month

**Peek-a-Boo!** written by Roberta Grobel Intrater
(Babyfaces series)

Babies and toddlers love looking at faces! This book has a different face on every page, and every face has a different expression. Your child will love to snuggle up in your lap as you enjoy the book together.

Check out more of the Babyface board books, in both English and Spanish versions:

More board books babies/toddlers will love:

- **What Shall We Do With the Boo-Hoo Baby?** Mandy Stanley
- **Motown Baby Love series**, Charles R. Smith PeekaBaby, Karen Katz
- **Maisy Goes to the Library**, Lucy Cousins
- **Global Babies**, Global Fund for Children
- **Big Book of Beautiful Babies**, David Ellwand
- **Blankie**, Leslie Patricelli
- **First Words**, Anna Harrison
More fun with Peek-a-Boo!...

Make your own book... You will need an old photo album from around the house or from a thrift or dollar store. Insert photos of your baby/toddler and use stickers or file labels to write a caption such as “happy,” and “mad.” You could also make a book of your family, labeling “dad,” or “cat.” Your child will love “reading” these books together over and over again!

Fingerplay
Chubby Little Snowman

A chubby little snowman had a carrot nose. (form snowman with right fist, with thumb sticking out for a carrot nose)

Along came a bunny, and what do you suppose? (use two fingers of left hand to hop to snowman)

That hungry little bunny, looking for his lunch,

Ate that snowman’s carrot nose (bunny grabs snowman’s nose)

Nibble, nibble, crunch!

Action Rhyme
Falling Down

Snow, snow
Falling down (move hands, like falling snow)
Quietly, quietly (move finger to mouth-shhh)
It covers the ground. (move hands back and forth and smooth)

Wintertime Tunes!

’Tis the season to sing “Jingle Bells” and other family favorites. Sharing songs is a good way to explore language and different cultures with your child. Music activities can help build vocabulary and improve attention span, concentration and memory. Here’s a great website for song favorites:

http://bussongs.com

Show your child lots of different musical instruments, and let her play and experiment with some of them. Homemade instruments are cheap and easy to make:

- Shaker: Put rice or beans in a closed container with the lid safely taped in place
- Drum: Use a spoon and a pot, or a wooden spoon and an upside down laundry basket
- Hummer: Use toilet or paper towel roll, cut circle of wax paper that is larger than hole, tape it over hole on one end. Hum into it. For a different sound, paper punch a hole in side of roll.

What your library can do for you...
Your library is a great place to find holiday books, music, videos and DVDs!

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