



Read to Me News

From Your Public Library & Idaho's Read to Me Program

The Importance of Talking

Research shows that children who spend a lot of time "talking" with adults learn more words and that helps them become better readers. Knowing many words will help your child recognize & understand written words. To help young children develop language abilities:

- Talk to your child, a lot! Research shows that parents who talk to their children more often have children with larger vocabularies, and those children score higher on IQ tests.
- Encourage babies to communicate with you by repeating their cooing sounds back to them. "Ba ba ba." "Ga ga ga."
- Describe to your baby what you're doing as you go about your daily activities. "I'm getting cereal because I can see that you're hungry." "It's cold outside, so we should bundle up!" Describe what the baby is doing. "You're smiling. I see that you're happy today."
- Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- Read to your child every day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations. Talk about the stories and the pictures in books.

Parents who talk to their children throughout the day are giving them a gift. The language they learn will help them enjoy and understand the world around them and help prepare them to become lifelong learners.

Book of the Month

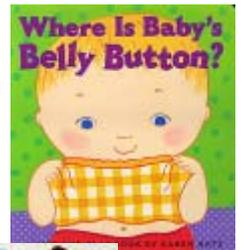
The Icky Bug Counting Book, by Jerry Pallotta.
Illustrated by Ralph Masiello.



In this book, author Jerry Pallotta reveals fascinating facts about some common and some unusual bugs while counting from 1 to 26. Counting objects with your child and talking about the things we see every day -- like bugs -- is a great way to build a child's vocabulary.

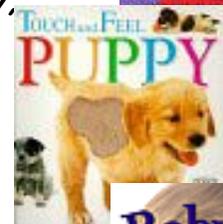
Ask your librarian for other great board books for your child. Here are some others you and your child may enjoy:

Where Is Baby's Belly Button? by Karen Katz



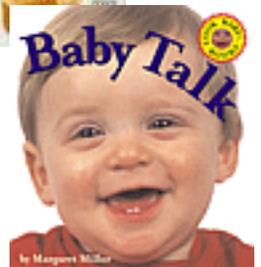
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr.

Touch and Feel: Puppy, by DK Publishing



Moo, Baa, La La La! by Sandra Boynton

Baby Talk, by Margaret Miller



Planting a Rainbow: Lap-Sized Board Book, by Lois Ehlert

I Like It When . . . /Me gusta cuando . . . by Mary Murphy

Book Sharing

Sharing books with your baby early in life increases your child's later interest in and enjoyment of books. When book sharing experiences are positive, parents have an easier time talking about the pictures and their babies are more interested and responsive.

Positive interactions around books will lead to more regular and frequent book sharing experiences. This program will teach you ways to share books with your baby and enjoy this time together.

Five Easy Steps for Sharing Books with Your Baby

1. Pick the best time.

The best time is when you and baby are in a good mood.

2. Show baby the book.

Point to the pictures and talk in your most exciting voice.

3. Talk and have fun.

Remember to touch and love baby the whole time.

4. Watch what baby does.

Let baby play with the book if he or she wants to and stop for now if baby gets upset.

5. Share a book with your baby every day. Even just a few minutes is important.



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Song of the Month

Flutter, Flutter, Butterfly

Sung to: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Flutter, flutter, butterfly.
Floating in the summer sky.
Floating by for all to see,
Floating by so merrily.
Flutter, flutter, butterfly,
Floating in the summer sky.



Fingerplay to Share

Creeping Caterpillar

Here comes a caterpillar,
Creeping up a tree.

(crawl your fingers up your arm)

It's munching every leaf in sight,
Hungry as can be.

(Make eating motion with hand.)

It sheds its skin and forms a shell:

The changes we can't see.

(fold hands)

Then out of the shell a butterfly comes,
Flying fancy-free!

(clasp thumbs, spread fingers and wave them)

