

## Did you know...



During the summer our schedules change and routines are sometimes harder to keep. It is important to keep reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing with your young child so their early literacy skills can continue to grow. If you have older children, it is good practice for them to read to your child, and it helps develop a bond between them. Look for programs at your library or in the community that will be fun and provide opportunities for your little one to learn.

*Every hero has a story!*



*Most Idaho libraries offer summer reading programs, and many offer programs in which you can earn prizes by reading to your baby or toddler. The national summer reading theme this year is all about heroes—what better way to be your little one's hero than reading to her every day?!*

## Here's how...



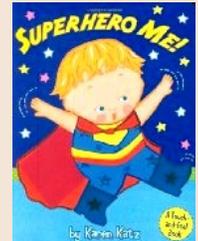
- ✦ Keep books in your purse, diaper bag, and in the car. When you have wait time in an office or while you are driving, books can keep your child interested and engaged.
- ✦ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local public library. It's free for most people. Some libraries offer free summer cards for those who live out of district.
- ✦ Let your child pick out books they enjoy even if you have to read the same books over and over. When children choose books they enjoy, they love to learn reading and become better readers when they start school.

## Read



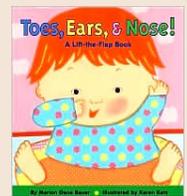
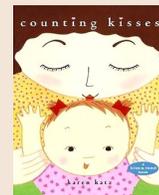
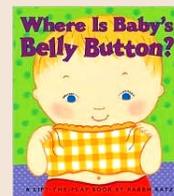
### **Superhero Me, by Karen Katz**

Superheroes can be exciting to watch in action, but these babies have special powers of their own just by being themselves.



This touch-and-feel book has different textures for your little one to touch as they look through the book.

Karen Katz has written a lot of books for infants and toddlers. Check them out at your local library.



## Choosing Books



### **More books to read this summer...**

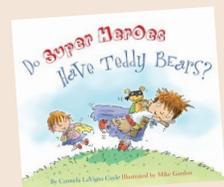
*Ten Tiny Toes*, by Caroline Jayne Church

*DC Super Heroes ABC 123*, by David Bar Katz

*Frog is a Hero*, by Max Velthuijs

*Clifford to the Rescue*, by Norman Bridwell

*Do Super Heroes Have Teddy Bears?* by Carmela LaVigna Coyle



## Talk



Sorting laundry is a fun way to learn how to match and is a good life skill. Start with shirts that are a solid color and include just a few. As your child gains skills you can add more. Place socks and shirts in a laundry basket and have your child sort them into two piles—socks and shirts. Talk with them about colors and sizes as they are sorting. When they are able to identify colors you can start asking, “Can you find a red shirt?” or “Where are the brown socks?”

Adapted from *The Encyclopedia of Infant and Toddler Activities for Children Birth to 3*, by Kathy Charner, Maureen Murphy, and Charlie Clark

## Write



Using a paint brush to paint will help your child learn to hold a writing tool and see the effects of moving it on the paper. Washable materials and paint smocks or old t-shirts will make cleanup easier. It also helps to cover the floor with large sheets of paper or plastic.

It’s important to talk about rules when using any writing tool or art materials. Explain where it is okay to write or paint, and then have fun!

## Play



### Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on the hill,  
*(hold up one finger on each hand)*

One named Jack, and one named Jill.  
*(hold each finger forward as you say each name)*

Fly away Jack! *(put one hand behind your back)*

Fly away Jill! *(put other hand behind your back)*

Come back Jack! *(bring your hand back in front)*

Come back Jill! *(put your other hand in front)*

[http://wiki.kcls.org/index.php/Two\\_Little\\_Blackbirds](http://wiki.kcls.org/index.php/Two_Little_Blackbirds)



## Sing



Help your child learn to wave to people while singing this song.

*(to the tune of “Frere Jacques”)*

Wave to daddy,  
wave to daddy,

Wave, wave, wave.

Wave, wave, wave.

Say hello to daddy,  
say hello to daddy,

Wave, wave, wave.

Wave, wave, wave.



*Sing again with “mommy,” “grandma”...*

From *125 Brain Games for Babies*, by Jackie Silberg

## At your library...



You can read hundreds of free online books with your child by visiting your local library’s website and clicking on TumbleBooks™.

