

Did you know...



It is never too early to introduce babies to print. Board books have pages that are heavy, sturdy, and laminated. They are perfect for little hands. Babies and toddlers explore their world by putting things into their mouths, including books. This is normal, which is why board books are a great choice for young children.

Books don't have to be read from front to back. You can take a "book walk" by turning the pages and pointing to pictures. Name the pictures as you look at them, to help build your child's vocabulary. If your child wants to look at the same pictures over and over, give them time to do so. Children need repetition for information to be stored in their long-term memories.



Take time to look at and read books with your little one. It will create a strong tradition of reading in their lives.

Here's how...



- ✦ Point out street signs as you walk or drive around town with your child. Talk about the color, shape, and words on signs so your child will be aware they have meaning.
- ✦ Point out letters, numbers, and shapes on your child's clothing. Say "Oh look, there is a circle on your shirt" and trace it with your finger.
- ✦ Let your child have opportunities to play around with writing and drawing. They can write in pudding, shaving cream, sand, or dry Jell-O on a cookie sheet or any flat surface. Shaving cream should be used only with older toddlers.

Read



In My Neighborhood/En mi vecindario, by Anna Bardaus



Colorful pictures show scenes in the neighborhood where your baby or toddler might go throughout the day. There are bilingual labels that identify some of the important people and objects in each scene. There is no storyline in this book, so you can make up a new story every time you read it.

Look for other board books by Anna Bardaus at your local library.



Choosing Books



More print-rich books...

Mouse Mess, by Linnea Riley

Baby Signs, by Joy Allen

Dear Zoo, by Rod Campbell

Feast for 10, by Cathryn Falwell

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!
by Mo Willems

Shopping, by Rosemary Wells

Goodnight Gorilla, by Peggy Rathmann

What Shall We Do with the Boo Hoo Baby?
by Cressida Cowell

Talk



Talk about the letters and words on boxes and containers of food. Your child will start to recognize what it is from the print as well as the pictures.

Write



Playing with playdough strengthens muscles that are used for writing. Add spices or essential oils in the dough to change the smell. Play dough activities help develop pre-writing skills.

Play



Baby Bounce

To Market, To Market

(Gently bounce baby to rhythm)

To market, to market, to buy a fat pig,
Home again, home again, jiggety-jig.

To market, to market, to buy a fat hog,
Home again, home again, jiggety-jog.

You can see a video of how to do the bounce at
www.wccls.org/rhymes/to-market-to-market

Tickle Rhyme

Five Little Piggies

(Gently squeeze each of your child's toes)

This little piggy went to market,

This little piggy stayed home,

This little piggy ate roast beef,

This little piggy had none.

And this little piggy went...

Wee wee wee wee wee"

All the way home...

Sing



Walk, Walk, Walk Your Feet

(to the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Walk, walk, walk your feet

Everywhere you go.

Walk them fast, walk them slow,

Walk them heel to toe.

Walk, walk, walk my friends,

Everywhere you go.

Walk there fast, walk there slow,

The journey never ends.

By Pam Schiller

Material from *The Bilingual Book of Rhymes, Songs, and Fingerplays* by Pam Schiller, Rafael Lara-Alecio, and Beverly J. Irby, ISBN 978-0-8769-284-7, is reprinted with permission from Gryphon House, Inc.,
www.gryphonhouse.com

At your library...



Don't have access to a computer? Many libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.