Babies, Babies, Babies!

Babies grow and develop so quickly that parents are often times amazed at the things they learn to do within the first three years of life. Some skills come easier than others. It takes a lot of falling down before babies are able to walk confidently on their own.

Literacy skills that babies can develop are:

- Learning to enjoy listening to books with familiar objects
- Pointing and looking at pictures and labeling objects
- Holding books right side up and turning pages
- Playing with rhymes, songs and language
- Writing scribbles and lines on paper

(Taken from International Reading Association and National Association for the Education of Young Children guidelines, 1998)

Reading time should be fun and relaxing. Don’t worry about trying to get through the whole book at this stage. Continue looking at books for as long as your baby seems interested. As they grow older they will be able to stay engaged longer. Enjoy story time with your baby and develop a love of reading in your child!

Featured Book

Global Babies/ Bebés del mundo, a Global Fund for Children book by Maya Ajmera

Young children love to look at baby faces, and this bilingual book celebrates children from all over the world.

The Global Fund for Children supports programs that help needy children all over the world. Here are more Global Fund for Children books:

- Baby Faces series, by Roberta Grobel Intrater
- Babies, by Susan Canizares
- Big Book of Beautiful Babies, by David Ellwand
- Carry Me and Families (Babies Everywhere series), by Star Bright Books
- Hands Can, by Cheryl Willis Hudson
- I Can, Can You? by Marjorie W. Pitzer (all babies in this book have Down Syndrome)
- What I Like About Me! by Allia Zobel Nolan
- Whoever You Are, by Mem Fox
- Whose Knees Are These? by Jabari Asim
More fun with *Global Babies...*

**Storing Your Child's Books:** Keep your child's books on a low shelf or basket where she can see them and get them herself. Encourage her to look through them often and talk about them with you or others.

**Six Early Literacy Skills:** Early Literacy skills can be taught from birth through reading and literacy activities.

*Print Motivation* (loving books): Begin reading to your child when she is a baby; make reading a special, cozy experience, and let your child see you reading, too.

*Print Awareness* (using books): Point to words and pictures as you read, and let your child hold the board books, turn pages, and even chew on them!

*Letter Knowledge* (ABC’s): Help your child see and feel different shapes as you play, explain how things are the “same” and “different,” and point out letters on toys and boxes.

*Vocabulary* (words): Talk with your child about what is going on around them or what you are doing, teach them the names of objects, and ask him lots of questions.

*Phonological Awareness* (sounds): Sing songs, play games, and share rhymes to help your child hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.

*Narrative Skills* (storytelling): Tell stories together, encourage pretend play, and let your child be a storyteller. Ask your little one lots of questions that need more description than just a “yes” or “no.”

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**Nursery Rhyme**

**Pat-a-Cake**

Pat-a-cake, Pat-a-cake,  
Baker's man,  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.  
Pat it and prick it,  
and mark it with “B”.  
Put it in the oven for baby and me.

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*What your library can do for you...*

The library has an assortment of books you can read with your child: board books, lift the flap, hard and soft back books, as well as books on CD or tape. Check out different types of books to see which your child enjoys the best.