Print Motivation

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. Very young children have short attention spans, so keep reading activities brief and fun. Don’t worry about finishing a story.

You can take a “book walk” the first time you share a new book with your child. Point out pictures and talk about them. Let your child turn the pages and see what grabs their attention and focus on that.

Board books have pages that are heavy, sturdy and laminated. They are perfect for little hands. The pictures are simple and clear and the designs are bright and fun.

Babies explore their world by putting things into their mouths, including books. This is normal, and board books are made for little hands and mouths because they are harder to damage than other books.

You can clean board books by wiping with 1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water, or just clean them with a little soap and water and wipe them dry.

So make some special time each day reading with your child. It is a gift that is priceless.

More books to encourage reading:

- Maisy Goes to the Library, by Lucy Cousins
- Peek-a-Boo! (Baby Face Series), by Roberta Grobel Intrater
- Bear Wants More, by Karma Wilson
- Bunny’s Noisy Book, by Margaret Wise Brown
- The Snowy Day, by Ezra Jack Keats
- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
- I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More, by Karen Beaumont
- In the Small, Small Pond, by Denise Fleming

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

**Jack Be Nimble**

Jack be nimble  
Jack be quick  
Jack, jump over the candlestick.

This is a fun activity to do jumping over a short, fat candle. It helps children connect with the concepts of over and under, and helps them learn to jump with both feet together.

For babies, hold baby under arms facing you. On JUMP, lift baby up and over your lap.

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**Action Rhyme**

**Touch**

Touch your nose,  
Touch your chin,  
This is the way the game begins.  
Touch your eyes,  
Touch your knees,  
Now pretend you’re going to sneeze! ACHOO!  
Touch your hair,  
Touch one ear,  
Touch your two red lips right here.  
Touch your elbows where they bend.  
That is how this game will end.

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

Most libraries offer special free programs for children. Storytimes or special events for your children allow “together time” with fun activities and stories. Ask your librarian about programs offered for families.