What is a Family?
Families are an important part of each child’s life. They are the people who care for them and love them. It is important for children to feel a bond with everyone in their family, and sitting down to read books is one way those bonds can develop. This one-on-one attention helps your child know that reading is important and fun to do. It also builds their curiosity and memory skills. When you take time out of your busy schedule to spend time with your young child, he will feel more happy and secure.

Families come in all shapes and sizes. They might be a dad and a child, a mom and dad with several children, or grandparents raising a child. They can live together in a house or in different apartments. The important thing about families is that they work together to keep their children safe, healthy and learning.

Families need to be aware of language milestones that their child should be achieving. All children learn at different speeds, but here are some guidelines from Betty Bardige:

### Language Milestones—Birth to Three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-6 months</td>
<td>Back and forth noises, tuning in to parents and caregivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-12 months</td>
<td>Babbling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-15 months</td>
<td>Imitating, holding attention, trying to communicate by gestures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-18 months</td>
<td>First words, meaningful gestures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 months</td>
<td>Putting words together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-30 months</td>
<td>Talking or sign language is the main form of communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Featured Book

Have You Seen My Duckling? by Nancy Tafuri

This mostly wordless book takes your child on an adventure as he tries to find the missing duckling on each page. It might take some close looking the first time through the book to find the duckling, but your child will quickly catch on. Wordless books give readers the chance to make up their own story as they look at the pictures. It also gives your child an opportunity to tell the story in his own words. This book won a Caldecott Honor award for its artwork.

More Books about Families...
- Guess How Much I Love You, by Sam McBratney
- If You Were My Bunny, by Kate McMullen
- Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman
- Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother Too? by Eric Carle
- In Grandma’s Arms, by Jayne C. Shelton
- Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino
- My Daddy and Me, by Amy E. Sklansky
- Daddy Hugs, by Karen Katz
More fun with Have You Seen My Duckling?...

Out and About... Go for a walk or hike and look for baby animals, such as kittens, puppies or ducklings. Talk about the sounds they make and what they are called.

Make a Book... Make a book about your family by gluing photos onto paper that has been folded in half and stapled together (or in a photo album). Write the name of each person under each picture. Point to the pictures and tell your child who they are. Include parents, grandmas and grandpas, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and of course, a picture of your child. They love to see photos of people they know.

Song to Sing

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks that I once knew,
Fat ones, skinny ones, fair ones too.
But the one little duck
with the feather on his back,
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Quack, quack quack! Quack, quack quack!

He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Down to the river they would go,
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble, to and fro.

But the one little duck
with the feather on his back,
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Quack, quack quack! Quack, quack quack!

What your library can do for you...

Libraries have programs for all members of the family. There are different types of storytimes, book clubs, games, and hobby groups. Check out programs that your family would be interested in.

Books to Go From Your Library

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Brought to you by the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program and your local library.