

Did you know...



Children learn about language by listening to parents and caregivers talk and by joining in conversation. Talking with your baby or toddler every day helps her develop important language skills. Helping your child develop these skills when she is young will help her understand what she hears, and later, what she reads.

Very young children can understand spoken words long before they can speak any of them — so talk with them throughout the day and you will be amazed at how your child responds!

Here's how...

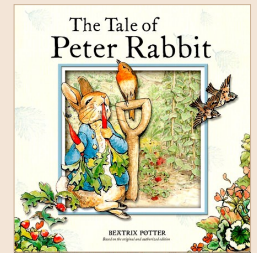


- ✦ Talk to your baby in “parentese,” which is talking in a sing-song way, stretching out your vowels.
- ✦ Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props. Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- ✦ Name things (real objects and pictures in books) as you go through the day. Use songs and nursery rhymes.
- ✦ Make sure your child has lots of chances to talk *with* you, not just listen to you talk.
- ✦ Ask your baby a question and then answer for her. “Your diaper needs changing; let’s do that right now, OK? Good!”
- ✦ Use the language that is most comfortable for you!

Read



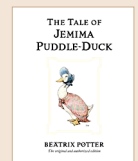
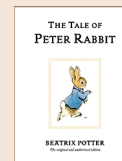
The Tale of Peter Rabbit, by Beatrix Potter



Peter Rabbit is a bit of a naughty little rabbit. His mother warns him about going into Mr.

McGregor’s garden, but the vegetables growing there are just so tempting. What will happen if Peter gets caught?

Beatrix Potter wrote a series of children’s books about Peter and his forest friends. When your little one is a bit older, look for these, as well as the original version of Peter Rabbit, at your local library.



Choosing Books



More classic books for babies & toddlers...

Goodnight Moon, by Margaret Wise Brown

My Very First Mother Goose, edited by Iona Opie

Guess How Much I Love You, by Sam McBratney

Good Night, Gorilla, by Peggy Rathmann

Pat the Bunny, by Dorothy Kunhardt

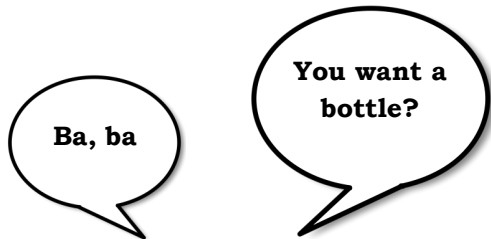
The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle

Talk



One of the most important things you can do with your baby or toddler is respond to their babbling by babbling or talking back to them. It is called “serve and return” interaction. This short video explains what it does for your baby’s brain:

<http://tinyurl.com/Harvard-serve-return>



Write



Doing fingerplays will help develop the fine muscles in your toddler’s fingers that are needed to hold a pencil later on. They also help with hand-to-eye coordination. Try this simple one:

Play



Here Is a Bunny

Here is a bunny with ears so funny
(*bend 2 fingers down for ears*)

And here is a hole in the ground
(*make circle with other hand*)

At the first sound he hears,

He pricks up his ears,
(*extend two fingers*)

And jumps in his hole in the ground.
(*fingers jump into the hole*)

<http://tinyurl.com/hereisabunny>

Sing



Three Little Rabbits

Three little rabbits have a mama.

Three little rabbits have a papa.

One rabbit is red– his name is Fred.

Another one is black– his name is Jack.

Another one is tan– her name is Nan.



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...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “*Curl Up with a Classic.*” Libraries across the state are planning fun events that celebrate family reading.

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 15—21, 2015.