



For ages  
**Birth  
to 2**

# The Bookworm



From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

**February 2012**

## Talk, Talk, Talk

Children need to know the meaning of words in order to understand what they are reading.

Research shows that young children who have spent a lot of time "talking" with adults learn more words, and this helps them become better readers. Knowing many words will help your child recognize and understand written words and language when it is time to learn to read.

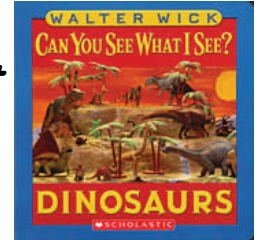
**The best way to help your children learn lots of words is to talk and read with them.**

- Studies show that children whose parents talk to them a lot will better understand what they read later on.
- Encourage babies to communicate with you by repeating their cooing sounds back to them. "Ba ba ba." "Ga ga ga."
- Tell your baby or toddler what you are doing as you go about your daily activities. "I'm getting cereal because I can see that you are hungry." "It's cold outside, so we are putting on your coat and hat!" Describe what your baby is doing. "You're smiling! I see you are happy today."
- Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- Read to your child every day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations. Talk about the stories and pictures in books.

## Book of the Month

***Dinosaurs*, by Walter Wick (*Can You See What I See?* series)**

In this rhyming search-and-find board book, created especially for babies and toddlers, children can look for all sorts of dinosaurs--big and small, low and tall, red and brown, up and down, and more!



**Here are some more good books to help your child build words...**

- That's Not My Dinosaur*, by Fiona Watt (an Usborne Touchy-Feely book)
- Goodnight Gorilla*, by Peggy Rathman
- "More, More, More," Said the Baby*, by Vera Williams (Caldecott Honor)
- Opposites*, by Sandra Boynton
- Planting a Rainbow*, by Lois Ehlert
- Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*, by Mem Fox and Helen Oxenbury
- Ten Tiny Tickles*, and *Counting Kisses*, by Karen Katz
- En Español...**
- Buenas noches, Gorila*, Peggy Rathman
- "Mas mas mas", dijo el bebe*, Vera Williams
- Opuestos*, Sandra Boynton
- Como plantar un arco iris*, Lois Ehlert
- ¿Dónde está el ombligo?* (Where Is Baby's Belly Button?), Karen Katz

## More fun with *Can You See What I See: Dinosaurs*

**Sort it out...** This activity will help your child build vocabulary and also develop important math skills. Sit on the floor with your two-year-old and put many toys in front of you. Say, "Let's find all the toys that have the color red in them and put them together." You can help your child sort by colors, size, or characteristics (such as toys that have wheels or eyes). Choose just one thing at a time to sort by so that your child does not get confused. Stop when your child loses interest.



### Rhyme for Babies

#### "Five Enormous Dinosaurs"

(Baby should be old enough to sit up without support)

Five enormous dinosaurs, (raise baby's arms)  
Letting out a roar, (move baby's arms in a circle)  
One went away, and then there were four. (raise baby's arms, hold up four fingers)

Four enormous dinosaurs, (raise baby's arms)  
Munching on a tree, (clap baby's hands together)  
One went away, and then there were three. (raise baby's arms, hold up three fingers)

Three enormous dinosaurs, (raise baby's arms)  
Didn't know what to do, (shake your head "no")  
One went away, and then there were two. (raise baby's arms, hold up two fingers)

Two enormous dinosaurs, (raise baby's arms)  
Having lots of fun, (clap baby's hands together)  
One went away, and then there was one. (raise baby's arms, hold up one finger)

One enormous dinosaur, (raise baby's arms)  
Left all alone,  
He went away, (lift baby up so she can "fly")  
And then there were none! (show baby empty hands for "all gone")

~from the Hennepin County Library  
[www.hclib.org/Birthto6/](http://www.hclib.org/Birthto6/)

## Song for Toddlers

**If You're a Great Big Dinosaur**  
(Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're a great big dinosaur,  
Show your claws.

If you're a great big dinosaur  
Show your claws.

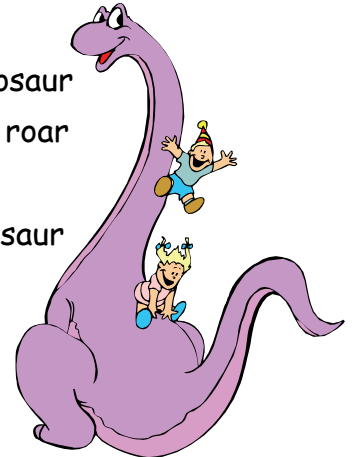
If you're a great big dinosaur  
Then give a great big roar  
(ROAR)!

If you're a great big dinosaur  
Show your claws.

*Additional verses:*

... show your teeth

... wiggle your tail



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

There are lots of high-quality board books available for babies and toddlers. Your librarian can help you find good books with lots of pictures and photos about fun topics!

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Printed 2012

