

Did you know...



It is never too early to introduce babies to print. Board books have pages that are heavy, sturdy, and laminated. They are perfect for little hands. Babies and toddlers explore their world by putting things into their mouths, including books. This is normal, which is why board books are a great choice for young children.

Books don't have to be read from front to back. You can take a "book walk" by turning the pages and pointing to pictures. Name the pictures as you look at them, to help build your child's vocabulary. If your child wants to look at the same pictures over and over, give them time to do so. Children need repetition for information to be stored in their long-term memories.

Take time to look at and read books with your little one. It will create a strong tradition of reading in their lives.

Here's how...

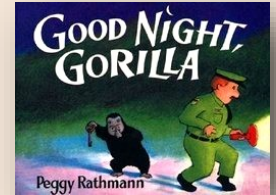


- ❖ Point out street signs as you walk or drive around town with your child. Talk about the color, shape, and words on signs so your child will be aware they have meaning.
- ❖ Point out letters, numbers, and shapes on your child's clothing. Say "Oh look, there is a circle on your shirt" and trace it with your finger.
- ❖ Let your child have opportunities to play with writing and drawing. They can write in pudding, shaving cream, sand, or dry Jell-O on a cookie sheet or any flat surface. Shaving cream should be used only with older toddlers.

Read



"Good Night Gorilla" by Peggy Rathmann



It's night time and the zookeeper is making sure the animals are ready to sleep. But what is the gorilla doing? This mostly wordless book will give your child a chance to help tell the story. Children love repetition and will learn the names of zoo animals as they read this classic children's book.

More Peggy Rathmann books for toddlers:

"The Day the Babies Crawled Away"

"10 Minutes Until Bedtime"

"Bootsie Barker Bites" (written by Barbara Bottner)

Choosing Books



More print-rich board books...

"Mouse Mess" by Linnea Riley

"Baby Signs" by Joy Allen

"Dear Zoo" by Rod Campbell

"Feast for 10" by Cathryn Falwell

"Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!"
by Mo Willems

"Shopping" by Rosemary Wells

"What Shall We Do with the Boo Hoo Baby?"
by Cressida Cowell

Talk



Gather any stuffed animals that your child has and put them in a box or basket. Pull the animals out one at a time and say, “Goodnight, dog” or “Goodnight, cow”- naming the animal. Using objects helps children make connections to the words they hear and builds vocabulary.

Ready to Write



Place your baby on a blanket with things from around your kitchen, such as measuring spoons, a colander, a turkey baster, wooden spoons, an ice cream scooper, a basting brush, a whisk, lids from pans, cookie cutters— anything without a sharp edge or point. There is a lot to explore by shaking, poking, banging, tasting, twisting, pulling, and tossing the kitchen tools. This kind of exploration helps build little hand and finger muscles!

Play



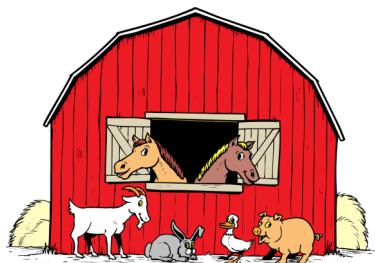
I Went To a Farm

I went to a farm the other day
And I saw a horse across the way
Can you guess what I heard him say?
Neigh, neigh, neigh, neigh.

1,2,3,4 (Slap thighs to beat, or tap baby’s leg)

1,2,3,4 (Slap thighs to beat, or tap baby’s leg)

Repeat chant with other farm animals.



Source– Library of Michigan

Sing



We’re Going to the Zoo

(to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell”)

We’re going to the zoo,
We’re going to the zoo!
Hi, ho, it’s off we go,
We’re going to the zoo!

We’ll see some monkeys there,
We’ll see some monkeys there.
Swinging, climbing in the trees,
We’ll see some monkeys there.

We’ll see some tigers there,
We’ll see some tigers there
Roaring, pouncing, playing about,
We’ll see some tigers there.

We’ll see some penguins there,
We’ll see some penguins there.
Waddling, diving, swimming around,
We’ll see some penguins there.

Hear tune at: <https://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell>

At your library...



Don’t have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!