

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...



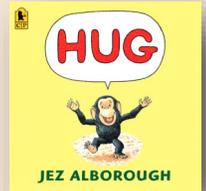
- ❖ Point out street signs as you walk or drive around town with your child. Talk about the color, shape, and words on signs so your child will be aware they have meaning.
- ❖ Point out letters, numbers, and shapes on your child's clothing. Say "Oh look, there is a circle on your shirt" and trace it 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

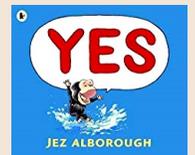
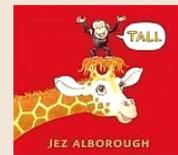
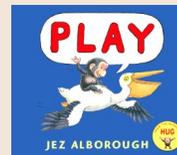


Hug, by Jez Alborough

Bobo is in search of a hug, and though all the animals are glad to give him one, he is looking for a hug from a very special someone. The illustrations in this story are perfect to talk about with your little one as you snuggle up—and be sure to end the story with a big hug of your own!



Other books in the Bobo series:



Look for other great books by Jez Alborough at your local library!

Choosing Books



More great books to share...

Mouse Mess, by Linnea Riley

Dear Zoo, by Rod Campbell

Feast for 10, by Cathryn Falwell

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

Goodnight Gorilla, by Peggy Rathmann

Little Blue Truck, by Alice Schertle

Where Is the Green Sheep? by Mem Fox

I Like it When... by Mary Murphy

Opposites, by Sandra Boynton

Huggy Kissy, by Leslie Patricelli

Talk



When you talk with your child, point out words and signs that are in your home or out in the community. Children soon associate letters with routines, such as walking by the stop sign on the corner or going to the grocery store.

Ready to Write



Squeezing, touching, poking, pinching, and grasping are all important fine motor skills that will help develop the little muscles in fingers and hands. Let your child explore items with different textures, such as bubble wrap, sand paper, playdough, hairbrushes, paper towel tubes, sponges, cooked spaghetti noodles, different kinds of fabrics, an egg carton, hair rollers, balls of yarn, a pine cone... Never leave your child unattended while they are handling these kinds of items.

Play



Action Rhyme for Babies

(Kiss baby's body parts.)

Kissy, kissy fingers,
Kissy, kissy toes.
Kissy, kissy baby
On your kissy, kissy nose.
I love to kiss your fingers,
I love to kiss your toes,
I love to kiss my baby,
On his/her kissy, kissy nose!

Monkey See, Monkey Do

Toddlers love to play “copy-me” games. Make a face, jump around, do a dance and so on. Everything you do your child must imitate. Then let your child take the lead, and imitate everything she does. Have fun, and let your child see you act silly with him.



Sing



Five Little Monkeys

(Let your child act out this silly song)

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell off and bumped his head.
Mama called the Doctor and the Doctor said,
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

Four little monkeys jumping on the bed...
Three little monkeys jumping on the bed...
Two little monkeys jumping on the bed...
One little monkey jumping on the bed...

No little monkeys jumping on the bed,
None fell off and bumped their head.
Mama called the Doctor and the Doctor said,
"Put those monkeys back to bed!"

Hear this song at

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
five-little-monkeys](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/five-little-monkeys)



At your library...



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free “storytimes online” every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer, device, or smartphone.

DayByDayID.org
STORYTIMES ONLINE