

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



First Words (Baby Touch and Feel), from DK



"Touch and Feel" board books allow young children to explore different textures. Your child can feel the soft fur of the dog or the teddy bear's fuzzy ears. The bright pictures and simple text are perfect for babies and toddlers. Talk about the pictures with babies and help them feel the pages; with toddlers, point to the words as you talk about the pictures. Store board books on a low shelf or basket where your child can pick them up on their own and look at them.

Look for more "touch and feel" books at your local library!

Choosing Books



More books to help your child begin to see print:

Kitten's First Full Moon, by Kevin Henkes

Overboard! by Sarah Weeks

Tall, by Jez Alborough

Dear Zoo, Rod Campbell

Shh! We Have a Plan, by Chris Haughton

Trucks (Baby Touch and Feel), by DK

Peek-a-Who? by Nina Laden

Toes, Ears, and Nose, by Karen Katz



Talk



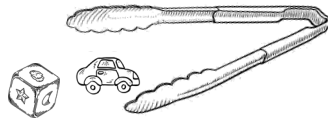
Encourage your child to touch the pages of the book. Talk to her about what she is feeling under her fingers, and try to get her to repeat after you. “Oh, feel how bumpy! Can you say bumpy?” “Feel the dog’s fur. It’s soft!”

Go on a scavenger hunt with your toddler. Take a box or bag and look for round things, blue things, soft things, etc. Describe the objects as your child puts them in the box.

Ready to Write



Lay out some small objects (plastic animals, cookie cutters, spools of thread, blocks). Give your child some kitchen tongs and show them how to pinch the tongs to pick up an object. Your child’s hands are small so they will need to use their whole hand, not just their fingers. They might even need to use two hands. This squeezing motion will help develop the small muscles in the hand, which are needed to control a pencil later on.



Play



Shake It: Action Rhyme

Shake it baby, shake it, *(Wiggle hips side to side)*

Shake it if you can. *(Keep wiggling)*

Shake it like a milkshake and do the best you can. *(Wiggle hips some more)*

Rumble to the bottom and rumble to the top. *(Wiggle down to the ground, rolling arms in front, then wiggle back up rolling arms)*

Turn around and turn around until you make it stop! *(Spin around with one arm extended until the word “stop,” then shout STOP.)*



Sing



Where is Thumbkin?

(Start with hands behind back)

Where is Thumbkin?

Where is Thumbkin?

Here I am,

(Bring right hand to front, with thumb up)

Here I am.

(Bring left hand to front, with thumb up)

How are you this morning?

Very well, I thank you.

(Wiggle thumbs as if they're talking to each other)

Run away, *(Hide right hand behind back)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back)*

Repeat with:

Pointer (index finger)

Tall-one (middle finger)

Ring-man (ring finger)

Baby (pinkie finger)

Everyone (all fingers)

<https://tinyurl.com/wccls-thumbkin>

At your library...

DayByDayID.org
STORYTIMES ONLINE



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, 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, tablet, or smartphone.