

## Did you know ...



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.

Your baby or toddler talks with you, too! They start with cooing and gurgling sounds, then begin to babble. Older babies begin making different sounds such as “ma-ma-ma-ma” and “ba-ba-ba-ba.” Toddlers should begin using some words.

To see how you can talk with your child, and to learn about talking “milestones” for your child’s age, go to [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html).

You can also sign up for a free “milestones” app!

## Here’s how ...

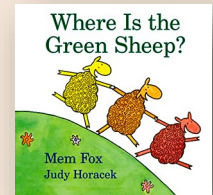


- ❖ Hearing language on TV is not as effective as talking directly with your child. Dressing and feeding your child are great opportunities for talking with them.
- ❖ Talk with your children in the language you speak at home. Building lots of words in their home language will help them build words in English as they get older.
- ❖ Look for books that teach concepts, such as numbers, colors, shapes, opposites, etc. These are things that will help your child be more successful when they start kindergarten (see *Choosing Books*).

## Read

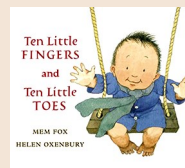


### **Where Is the Green Sheep?** by Mem Fox



There are red sheep and blue sheep, thin sheep and wide sheep, scared sheep and brave sheep, but where is the green sheep? The search is on in this cozy, sheep-filled story about opposites. It is just right for bedtime ... or anytime!

Favorite author Mem Fox has written dozens of books for young children, including:



- Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*
- Harriet, You’ll Drive Me Wild!*
- Time for Bed*

See all her books at [memfox.com](http://memfox.com).

## Choosing Books



### **More “concept” books...**

- Big Fat Hen*, by Keith Baker
- Blue Hat, Green Hat*, by Sandra Boynton
- Colors*, by Roger Priddy
- Counting Kisses*, by Karen Katz
- Little Green Peas*, by Keith Baker
- Quiet, Loud*, by Leslie Patricelli
- Same and Different*, by National Geographic
- Ten Black Dots*, by Donald Crews
- Ten, Nine, Eight*, by Molly Bang
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle

## Talk



Tell your baby or toddler what you are doing as you go about your daily activities. "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."

## Ready to Write



As you read counting books with your toddler, help them count the items on each page. Touch (or help them touch) each item as you count it aloud. "Let's count the chicks: One, two, three." At this age, help your child count things up to three or five. For higher amounts, it's okay just to point and count them yourself and talk about the pictures. Being able to touch an item and count it out loud is an important beginning math skill for young children to develop. It also helps children learn to control the little muscles in their fingers that are needed to hold a pencil later on.

## Sing



### Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

*(Traditional song/nursery rhyme)*

Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.  
One for the master, one for the dame,  
And one for the little boy,  
who lives down the lane.  
Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.

Now sing with other colored sheep:

Baa, baa, **green** sheep ...

Baa, baa, **blue** sheep ...

Baa, baa, **purple** sheep ...



Hear this song (King County Library System):

[kcls.org/content/baa-baa-black-sheep](https://kcls.org/content/baa-baa-black-sheep)

## Play



### Green Says Go!

*For this game to play with your older toddler, you will need three items or paper cutouts that are red, yellow, and green.*

Green says, "GO!" *(Hold up the color green.)*

Go! Go! Go! *(March in place.)*

Yellow says, "Slow!" *(Hold up the color yellow.)*

Slow ... sloooow ... sloooooow. *(March slowly.)*

And red says, "Stop!" *(Hold up the color red.)*

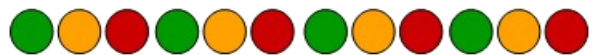
*(Freeze.)*

*(Hold up Green.)* Go! Go! Go!

*(Hold up Yellow.)* Slow ... sloooow ... sloooooow.

*(Hold up Red.)* STOP! *(Everybody freeze!)*

When your child begins to recognize the colors and actions, you can hold up the colors without a verbal cue.



## At your library...



Your family is welcome in the library, and your librarians care very much about you and your children. They are committed to helping every child get a great start, succeed in school, and create lifelong learners.

**Libraries are for everyone!**