

Did you know...



Children love to learn about and explore the world around them. Information or nonfiction books are one way they can do this. Information books contain photos or drawings that show animals, vehicles, people, etc. that help them make connections to what they see and hear. Information books also introduce children to a lot of words that will help build their vocabularies. Knowing many words will help your child recognize and understand written words and language when it is time to learn to read.

Some information books have more words than young children can sit and listen to. It is okay to look at the pictures and talk about them, or read the main text on the page without reading all of the words. Young children like to point to things that interest them, so take that as a clue about what to spend time on while you read information books.

Here's how...



- ❖ Create a book that has pictures of family, friends, and pets by using a photo album, scrapbook, or gluing pictures onto sheets of paper. Write each person's name next to their picture and let your child look at it often to learn familiar people's names.
- ❖ Check out books from your local library about the things your child is interested in. Is it cars, dogs, or balls? You can search by topic in your library's catalog for the things your child loves.
- ❖ Information books can teach concepts such as numbers, colors, shapes, opposites, etc. It is good for your young child to be introduced to these concepts so they are familiar with them when they go to school.
- ❖ Find information books in the language you speak at home.

Read



My Book of Animals: Big and Little/ Mi libro de animales: Grande y pequeño, by Liana James (Scholastic)



Babies and toddlers love looking at, and talking about, photos of animals. As you snuggle up with your little one, help her name the animals and talk about the differences between the adult animal and its baby.

Additional book in this series:



Choosing Books



When choosing information books for babies and toddlers, look for:

Books with simple photographs

Books with realistic illustrations

Books with everyday objects your child may recognize

Books with limited text

Note that not all board books are fitting for babies and toddlers. Some board books are based on picture books for older children or written for adults. Ask your librarian for book suggestions for your baby's age.

Talk



Older toddlers: Fill a clear plastic water bottle halfway with rice. Add a few small beads or buttons of different colors and shapes. Add a little more rice, so that the bottle is about 2/3 full. Glue, then tape the cap on so that your toddler cannot open the bottle. When the glue is dry, ask, “Can you find the blue bead?” “Can you find the square button?” Let your toddler tip and turn the bottle to try to find the objects inside the rice. Always monitor your child with this toy.

Ready to Write



Make a tunnel by taping paper towel tubes to the wall. Let your toddler drop small objects through the top. Experiment with different angles, or tape several tubes together. Pinching and dropping the small objects will help strengthen the little muscles in your child’s fingers, which will help her grip a pencil later on.



Sing



Dancing Animals

Tune: Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush

This is the way the horses prance, (“trot” in place, knees high)

Horses prance, horses prance.

This is the way the horses prance,

Dancing in the morning.

Continue...match actions to words

... ducks waddle...

... bunnies hop...

... worms wiggle...

... cats stretch...



This is fun to do in front of a mirror with your child. Be silly and have fun!

Play



Fingerplay: There Was a Little Turtle

There was a little turtle. (*make a fist*)

Who lived in a box. (*draw a square in the air*)

He swam in a puddle. (*pretend to swim*)

He climbed on the rocks. (*pretend to climb*)

He snapped at a mosquito.

(*make snapping motion*)

He snapped at a flea. (*make snapping motion*)

He snapped at a minnow.

(*make snapping motion*)

And he snapped at me! (*make snapping motion*)

He caught the mosquito. (*clap hands*)

He caught the flea. (*clap hands*)

He caught the minnow. (*clap hands*)

But he didn’t catch me!

(*wave finger as if saying “no-no”*)

See video at:

<https://tinyurl.com/Little-Turtle>



At your library...



Screen time for babies and toddlers is not recommended; however, reading an occasional picture book with your little one on your device is one way to enjoy more great stories together. Ask your library if they have e-books available to download to your computer, phone or tablet.