

Did you know...



Summer time is a great time to keep reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing with your baby or toddler so they can continue building early literacy skills.

Take time to go to the park and bring books with you for an outdoor storytime. Make reading bedtime stories a family tradition and sing songs as you take walks around your neighborhood. Play games with your child so they learn to follow directions and take turns. Talk to your child during routines like grocery shopping and taking a bath.

Visit your local public library to borrow some books, music CDs, and more. Most libraries offer storytimes and provide a place to meet other parents and let your child play. Be sure to sign up for summer reading, where prizes can be earned for reading to your child. This year's theme is "Imagine Your Story." Library programs are free!



Here's how...



- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Keep books in your purse, diaper bag, and in the car. When you have wait time in an office or while you are driving, books can keep your child interested and engaged.
- ❖ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local public library. It's free for most people. Some libraries offer free summer cards for those who live outside the local taxing district.
- ❖ Let your child pick out books they enjoy, even if you have to read the same books over and over. When children choose books they enjoy, they learn to love reading, and they become better readers when they start school.

Read

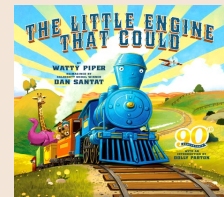
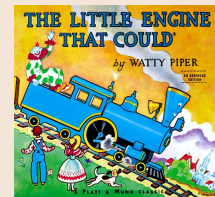


***The Little Engine that Could*, by Watty Piper**



Designed especially for toddlers, this board book features bright, cheery illustrations, and a simple retelling of the original story just right for reading aloud.

If your child is ready to listen to a longer version of this folk tale, look for these other editions by the author:



Choosing Books



"Imagine Your Story" this summer:

Hush, Little Baby: A Folk Song with Pictures, by Marla Frazee

Pete's a Pizza, by William Steig

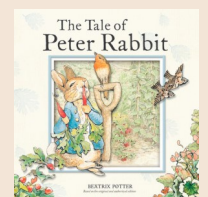
Princess Baby, by Karen Katz

Besos for Baby: A Little Book of Kisses, by Jen Arena

We're Going on a Bear Hunt, by Michael Rosen

Wynken, Blynken and Nod, illustrated by David McPhail

The Tale of Peter Rabbit, by Beatrix Potter



Talk



Make up a story with your toddler's name. Each time you come to their name, let them fill in the word. "Once upon a time there was a boy named _____. This boy _____ went out to play." Begin adding other blanks to fill in: "When _____ got outside he picked up a _____. Then the little boy _____ saw his friend _____."

From Brain Games for Toddlers and Twos, by Jackie Silberg, 2000.

Ready to Write



Here's an activity that will help develop the little finger muscles in your child's hands:

Fill a dish tub or bucket with water. Gather some small objects (milk caps, small lids, small plastic toys, bits of sponge) and put them in the tub. Give your child a measuring cup or a ladle and let them scoop the items out of the water. This is a fun activity to do outside when the weather is warm!

Play



Choo-Choo Train Action Rhyme

This is a choo-choo train (*bend arms at elbows*)
Puffing down the track. (*rotate arms in rhythm*)
Now it's going forward, (*step forward*)
Now it's going back. (*step back*)
Now the bell is ringing (*pull bell cord with closed fist, or tap child's nose gently*)
Now the whistle blows. (*hold fist near mouth and nose, or blow on child's head*)
What a lot of noise it makes (*cover ears*)

Everywhere it goes! (*stretch out arms*)

~From *Lapsit Services for the Very Young II*, by Linda Ernst



Sing



Down by the Station

Down by the station
Early in the morning
See the little pufferbellies
All in a row.

See the station master
Turn the little handle.

(Put your hand up like you are reaching to turn a handle)

Chug chug toot, toot!

(Hold your hand in a circle like it's a whistle to your mouth)

Off they go!



Song and video at www.bussongs.com/songs/down-by-the-station

At your library...



Be sure to check your library's website and/or Facebook page for special summer activities in the library and out in the community!