

Did you know...



Summertime is a great time to read, talk, sing, and play 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 bath time.

Visit your local public library to borrow books and games, or use the library's online services. Be sure to sign up for the library's summer reading program, where you can earn prizes for reading to your child or doing fun activities. 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 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



Spot Loves Bedtime, **by Eric Hill**



Spot is the main character in a large collection of children's books by Eric Hill. Young children love these books because they are colorful, the pictures are simple and bright, and the books contain stories about people, places, and things that are familiar. In *Spot Loves Bedtime*, it's hard for a puppy to settle down and go to sleep if his favorite stuffed animal is missing!

Some Spot books are also available in Spanish. Check with your public library to see if they have Spot books for checkout.

Choosing Books



More Spot books...

- Where's Spot?*
- Spot's Favorite Shapes*
- Get Well Soon, Spot*
- Spot Can Count*
- Spot's Baby Sister*
- Spot Goes to the Farm*
- Spot on the Move*
- Spot Bakes a Cake*



Talk



Use words that describe where something is located, such as “under,” “in,” or “behind.” Let your child watch as you put a small stuffed animal under a blanket. Say, “Where is Teddy?” and let your child pick up the blanket. “Teddy is under the blanket!” Put the stuffed animal in other positions. “Teddy is inside the box!” “Teddy is behind the pillow!” Let your child put the stuffed animal somewhere and give them the words to describe where it is; or if they are beginning to talk ask them to tell you where the stuffed animal is.

Ready to Write



Studies show that when a child’s *large* body muscles are strong, they will find it easier to print and draw. It is especially important to strengthen the part of their body from their hips to their neck, or “trunk.” Give your child plenty of ways to crawl, run, climb, balance, spin, jump, and throw. Allow them to get from place to place on their own as much as possible, without picking them up automatically and carrying them. Avoid walkers, jumpers, and bouncers, as these tend to mostly develop leg muscles and not trunk muscles. Visit parks with play equipment. Have dance parties. Play often!

Play



Hey, Diddle, Diddle



Hey, diddle, diddle,
the cat and the fiddle,
the cow jumped over the moon.
(jump over a sock or small item)

The little dog laughed to see such a sport,
and the dish ran away with the spoon.
(run in a circle)

Sing



Hush, Little Baby

Hush, little baby, don't say a word,
Papa's gonna buy you a mockingbird.
And if that mockingbird won't sing,
Papa's gonna buy you a diamond ring.
And if that diamond ring turns brass,
Papa's gonna buy you a looking glass.
And if that looking glass gets broke,
Papa's gonna buy you a billy goat.
And if that billy goat won't pull,
Papa's gonna buy you a cart and bull.
And if that cart and bull turn over,
Papa's gonna buy you a dog named Rover.
And if that dog named Rover won't bark,
Papa's gonna buy you a horse and cart.
And if that horse and cart fall down,
You'll still be the sweetest
little baby in town.

Hear tune: <https://tinyurl.com/Hush-little-baby-babycenter>



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!