

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



Splash! by Leslie Patricelli



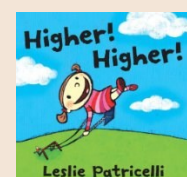
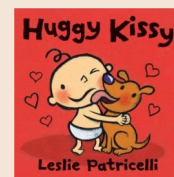
Pack a bag and join Baby for an adventure at the beach. With a new buddy to join in the fun, it's time to put on sunscreen, set up the umbrella, splash in the waves, and build a sandcastle. And don't forget the ice cream!

Award-winning author Leslie Patricelli lives in Hailey, Idaho. Visit her website to see all the great books for kids she has written, as well as music, games, and other fun activities: <http://lesliepatricelli.com/>

Choosing Books



More board books by Leslie Patricelli to look for at your public library:



Talk



When you talk, read, and sing with your child, even before they can use words, you're building their brain and helping them to be ready for school and life. It's not always easy to talk with a baby or toddler who can't talk back; here is a great resource that has tips and examples for everyday talk:

[Talkingisteaching.org](https://talkingisteaching.org)

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



Bubble, Bubble, Pop!

Make fish shapes out of felt or paper, or just use colored pom poms, crayons, socks, etc., to represent fish.

One blue fish went swimming in the ocean,
(hold up blue fish and swim it around)
Swimming in the ocean, swimming in the ocean.
One blue fish went swimming in the ocean,
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble, POP! *(clap)*

Repeat with:

Two red fish; three yellow fish; four pink fish; five green fish...

Or use different ocean animals:

One blue shark; one red crab; one yellow seahorse; one pink octopus; one green turtle...



Sing



Waves in the Sea

(To the Tune of: Wheels on the Bus)

The waves on the sea go up and down,
(raise and lower arms)
Up and down, up and down,
The waves on the sea go up and down
All day long.

More verses...

The sharks in the sea go snap, snap, snap...
(clap your hands)

The fish in the sea go swish, swish, swish...
(swish back and forth)

The boats in the sea go toot, toot, toot...
(make blowing horn motion)

Hear tune at www.thelearninggroove.com/wheels-on-the-bus



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!