

Read together EVERY DAY!

Reading with Birth to 12 Month Olds

- Pick times of the day when children are rested to read.
- Keep books handy and make them easily accessible to children.
- Choose books about things children are familiar with.
- Be flexible. Take a break if your child is unhappy or fussy.
- Read multiple times per day for short periods.

Infants like when readers:

- Read in a high-pitched voice to get their attention
- Point out words in the book
- Look at and talk about the pictures

What to Read:

Board and cloth books; books with baby faces; nursery rhymes



For more reading resources, visit www.depc.org

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Reading with 1 Year Olds

- Allow toddlers to move around while you are reading.
- Name the pictures; this is how toddlers learn new words.
- Read labels and signs wherever you go.

Toddlers like:

- The same books over and over
- Bedtime books
- Choosing and holding the book while reading
- Books with a few words
- Books about food, trucks, animals, and children

What to Read:

Board books; rhyming books; picture books; books that name things



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Reading with 2 Year Olds:

- Read labels and signs.
- Let child choose the book to read.
- Let them help turn pages.
- Encourage children to fill in words in familiar stories.
- Allow child to point to and name pictures in the book.

Toddlers like:

- The same books over and over
- Silly books
- Animal books and noises

What to Read:

Rhyming books; picture books that tell stories; search and find books



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Reading with 3 Year Olds

- Have child sit close or on your lap while reading.
- Ask questions about stories.
- Make weekly visits to library so child can choose more books.
- Notice and point out letters in the text.
- Ask child to name items in pictures before reading the text.

Preschool children like:

- Longer books that tell stories
- Books without words
- Alphabet and counting books
- Books about family, friends, and going to school
- Bedtime books

What to Read:

Picture books that tell longer stories; counting and alphabet books



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Reading with 4 to 5 Year Olds:

- Ask your child questions that require imagining or predicting
Ex: How do you think Paul feels right now?
What would you do if this were you?
- Relate books to the child's own life.
- Point out beginning sounds
Ex: This word has the same beginning sound as your name!
- Ask child to name the letters they recognize.
- Encourage child to read common words like "the."

What to Read:

Fairy tales and legends; books with longer stories and fewer pictures



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