



### Reading with your child is one of the best activities

...you can do with a new baby to preschooler. There's nothing like reading to introduce them to colors, shapes, pictures, and different voices, all while being hugged by *you*.

The time you spend together reading can be magic... and bonding. You're making some very special "just me and you time" that makes all the difference in their (and your) life.

And, reading with your baby comes with an important cherry on top. All the research shows that early reading helps your child develop a larger vocabulary and better math skills.

We at the Washington County Coalition for Children hope this brochure will give you some useful ideas and resources for reading with your child.

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### Your local library may be your and your baby's best friend!

Your nearby library has children's books, storytelling hours, helpful and knowledgeable librarians...and other parents and babies!

- **Block Island:** Island Free Library, [www.islandfreelibrary.org/](http://www.islandfreelibrary.org/)
- **Charlestown:** Cross Mills Public Library, [www.crossmills.org](http://www.crossmills.org)
- **Davisville:** [www.davisvillefreelibrary.org](http://www.davisvillefreelibrary.org)
- **Exeter:** [www.exeterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.exeterpubliclibrary.org)
- **Narragansett:** Maury Loontjens Memorial Library, [www.narlib.org/](http://www.narlib.org/)
- **North Kingstown Free Library:** [www.nklibrary.org/](http://www.nklibrary.org/)
- **South Kingstown Public Libraries:** (Kingston, Robert Beverly Hale and Peacedale) [www.skpl.org](http://www.skpl.org)
- **Westerly:** [www.westerlylibrary.org/](http://www.westerlylibrary.org/)
- **Willett Free Library:** [www.willettfree.org/](http://www.willettfree.org/)



### Your baby loves to read with you!

Thoughts and books for reading  
with your newborn to 2-year-old

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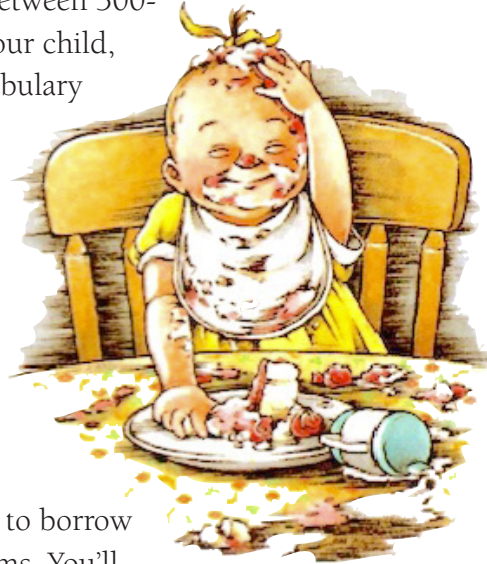


**Washington County  
Coalition for Children**  
[www.washcokids.org](http://www.washcokids.org)

## Reading to your baby now will change the rest of their lives!

Here's what the latest research tells us:

- Babies begin to learn language the minute they are born. When you read aloud, you are introducing your child to the sounds of human speech accompanied by your wonderful touch.
- By age 2, most children know between 300-500 words. But if you read to your child, he or she will have a larger vocabulary and is likely to become a better reader.



## Don't forget: you are your child's first teacher!

Give your baby a language-rich home. Here's how:

- Read to your child from birth. It is never too early; you'll see.
- Visit your neighborhood library to borrow books and participate in programs. You'll have fun and meet other parents.
- Share board books with your child. These sturdy books can withstand a licking (and a gumming).
- Encourage your baby to touch and help turn the pages.
- Your baby loves to hear your voice. Besides reading, talk to your baby at mealtimes, in the bath and during playtime.
- Share nursery rhymes with your baby. They are short, fun and help develop language skills.
- Sing to your baby. Share beloved songs from your childhood or discover new favorites online or at the library.
- Sometimes your baby won't be in the mood for reading. Too fidgety, too cranky. We're the same way. Try again later.
- Babies like different types of books at different ages: strong patterns when newborns, textures at 5 months, memorable stories at 18 months. We offer recommendations in this brochure.

## Which books? Depends on your baby's age

### From birth to 3 months, your baby:

- Prefers books with high-contrast colors and patterned designs.
- Looks at the pictures but may not touch the book.
- Gazes at you when you sing songs or nursery rhymes.

### At 4 to 6 months, your baby:

- Explores books by putting them in his or her mouth.
- Investigates books by patting, grabbing and pulling pages.
- May coo and babble at you when you read.

### At 6 to 12 months, your baby:

- Babbles at some of the pictures.

- Can turn the pages with your help.
- Plays with books like toys.

### At 12 to 18 months, your child:

- Can hold or carry books without help.
- Looks at books independently.
- May switch between books and activities frequently.
- Uses his index finger to point at the illustrations.

### At 18 to 24 months, your child:

- May repeat words and phrases in familiar books.
- Pretends to read and mimics grown-ups reading.
- May want to hear a favorite story over and over again.
- May like to carry favorite books around on the go.



## Some recommendations from our local librarians

### Simple pictures in high-contrast colors or black and white

- *Black on White* by Tana Hoban
- *I Kissed the Baby* by Mary Murphy
- *Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert
- *The Snowy Day*, Ezra Jack Keats

### Short books with few words on a page

- *Clap Hands* by Helen Oxenbury
- *Big Fat Hen* by Keith Baker

### Books with pictures of other babies

- *Splash!* Roberta Grobel Intrater
- *Baby Faces* by Margaret Miller
- *Baby 123* (board book) by Deborah Donenfield

### Bedtime stories often calm and reassure babies

- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown, illus. by Clement Hurd
- *Ten, Nine, Eight* by Molly Bang
- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman

### The three R's: Rhythm, Rhyme and Repetition

- *Everywhere Babies* by Susan Meyers, illus. by Marla Frazee
- *Moo, Baa, La La La!* by Sandra Boynton
- *1, 2, 3 to the Zoo* by Eric Carle
- *Dr. Seuss* (all of them!)

### Books with things to feel and flaps to lift

- *Where is Maisy?* Lucy Cousins
- *Where's Spot?* by Eric Hill
- *Pat the Bunny*, Dorothy Kunhardt
- *Fuzzy, Fuzzy, Fuzzy* by Sandra Boynton

Choose books YOU like, since you will be reading them again and again (and again).

**And don't forget to ask your local librarian for suggestions!**