

Early Literacy Skills

Story

Tell little stories to your baby. This will foster the **narrative skills** your child will need later for reading, and eventually, for writing.

Sounds

Sing songs, play games with words, and share rhymes. This will foster the **phonological awareness** necessary to prepare for reading, speech, and language.

Books

Find simple books and share them often. A soothing routine that includes books fosters **print motivation**.

Direction

Hold a book and pat the page as you read. This makes a connection for baby that leads to **print awareness**.

Words

Say the names of everyday things when you are with your baby and describe them. This develops **vocabulary**, which the child needs to speak, and later, to read.

Letters

Draw letters on your baby's tummy as you talk to him. Make a game of counting numbers out on fingers, toes, and other things. Both are considered **letter knowledge**, which a child needs as a building block to reading.

Literacy Development

What Parents Can Do:

Cuddle your baby comfortably face to face. Look into baby's eyes when you talk.

Follow baby's cues for "more" and "stop."

Point and name pictures.

Use puppets, dolls and other toys as story props.

Give attention to and praise the behavior you want from baby.

Create a safe environment for baby to explore.

Let baby try new things, whether or not baby is successful.

What Baby Can Do at This Age:

Look at pictures.

Vocalize, pat pictures.

Prefer pictures of faces.

Crawl and put things in mouth.

Books for This Age

Provide books that are safe and fun to touch and feel.

Discipline cannot yet be understood. Distract or redirect baby from unsafe objects or activities.

Physical punishment is inappropriate and ineffectual.



The process of brain development for reading starts before birth through quiet talking and singing to your baby.

It continues after birth through touch, love, eye contact, one-on-one interaction and repetition.

The ritual of talking together and sharing books starts early.

Learning to read comes later.

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	STORY	BOOKS	SOUNDS	DIRECTION	WORDS	LETTERS
AT HOME	[] Cuddle and read a board book.	[] Let your child hold the book.	[] Applaud when baby imitates sounds you model.	[] Cuddle as you read a board book.	[] Play <i>Touch Your Nose</i> .* Point to your nose. Do this with other body parts.	[] Point out letters colors/ shapes/ familiar objects while reading.
ON THE GO	[] Talk about where you are going and what you will do there. Listen to responses.	[] Tell a story from a book you have read together.	[] Sing nursery rhymes.	[] Talk about the signs you see, including stop lights.	[] Point out things you see on the way to your destination.	[] Sing the <i>This old Man</i> * or another favorite song.
AT THE LIBRARY	[] Cuddle and read a board book.	[] Go to story time at the library.	[] Attend a Rhythm Babies or other program at the library.	[] Cuddle and read a concept (shapes, letters, colors) board book.	[] Point out the names of familiar objects while reading.	[] Cuddle and read a concept (alphabet/ shapes/ colors/ opposites) board book.
IN THE STORE	[] Tell a story about your favorite food, meal etc. Listen to responses.	[] Read labels and talk about the food baby eats.	[] Make nonsense sounds with baby.	[] Point out the numbers and letters you see in the store.	[] Say the names of things as you shop. Talk about color and textures.	[] Count the items in the shopping cart out loud as you point to them.
AT BEDTIME	[] Cuddle and read a great bedtime book.	[] Read a board book together.	[] Sing <i>Rock-A-Bye Baby</i> * or other lullaby to baby.	[] Point out the way to read a book (left to right).	[] Talk about baby's day. Pause when baby responds verbally to you.	[] Tell the simple story of the day baby was born.



ACTIVITY LOG

7-12 MONTHS

Check off the activities as you do them with your child.

Choosing an activity from each column to complete six across will strengthen pre-reading skills in your child.

Continue until you have filled in the whole chart.

Think up similar activities until your child is developmentally ready for the next activity log.

