



READING WITH INFANTS AND TODDLERS



TIPS AND TRICKS FROM NAEYC:

Reading to babies is an intimate, shared experience that boosts development and learning. Making time for story sharing in busy infant settings is essential for children's vocabulary development and later reading ability. Being intentional about embedding literacy experiences in babies' everyday routines creates joyful, loving moments in the short-term and builds critical skills in the long-term.

Here are some tips that can make reading easier for you and more beneficial for the infants and toddlers in your care.

- ★ Make books readily accessible to both you and mobile babies by placing several baskets or trays of books on the floor in different locations around the room
- ★ Make books part of daily routines, such as when lulling a baby to sleep or feeding a baby.
- ★ Make homemade books featuring familiar family members, including pets.
- ★ Read aloud in a casual, conversational manner, pausing to point to the illustrations and label the objects & characters.
- ★ Read to children in their home language, if you are fluent in it.
- ★ Ask questions, even of the preverbal children. Wait for children to respond in their own ways (facial expressions, body movements, sounds) before you start talking again.
- ★ Make books readily accessible to both you and mobile babies by placing several baskets or trays of books on the floor in different locations around the room
- ★ Talk to children about the story, for example, "See the baby pat the bunny?"
- ★ Use an animated voice when reading to babies. This is a good way to show that you're interested and you enjoy reading! If you're engaged, babies will be too.
- ★ Find books that provide sensory experiences, like touch and feel books or books with flaps, noises and pop-ups.
- ★ Help children learn to turn the pages of a book. Reading should be interactive
- ★ Read for as long as the child is interested. It's fine to not finish the book.
- ★ Make a cozy and inviting reading area using pillows and other comfy cushions, as well as lots of books - and use your reading area regularly.
- ★ Find books about familiar songs or finger plays.
- ★ Try to read to each child every day

MOST IMPORTANTLY: HAVE FUN



A STEP AHEAD BOOK LIST

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR
by Eric Carle

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT
by Michael Rosen

THE NAPPING HOUSE
by Audrey Wood

THE HAPPY EGG
by Ruth Krauss

YUMMY YUCKY
by Leslie Patricelli

SHEEP IN THE JEEP
by Nancy Shaw

BABY HAPPY BABY SAD
by Leslie Patricelli

GREEN EGGS AND HAM
by Dr. Seuss

THE FAMILY BOOK
by Todd Parr

DIARY OF A WORM
by Doreen Cronin

ARE YOU MY MOTHER
by P.D. Eastman

WALTER THE FARTING DOG
by William Kotzwinkle &
Glenn Murray

COOKIE COUNT: A TASTY POP-UP
by Robert Sabuda

I HOPE YOU DANCE
by Mark Sanders and Tia Sillers

**THE BIG SHINY SPARKLY FIRST
WORDS BOOK**
by: Susie Lacombe

FIRST100 WORDS
by Priddy Baby Books

I KNOW A RHINO
by Charles Fuge

BABY BELUGA
by Raffi

**BROWN BEAR BROWN BEAR
WHAT DO YOU SEE**
by Bill Martin Jr & Eric Carle

A POCKET FOR COURDUROY
by Don Freeman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOUSE
by Laura Numeroff

DUCK AND GOOSE
by Tad Hills

ARE YOU A COW?
by Sandra Boynton

DEAR ZOO
by Rod Campbell

**TEN LITTLE FINGERS AND
TEN LITTLE TOES**
by Helen Oxenbury

BABY SIGNS
by Joy Allen

LOOK LOOK
by Peter Linenthal

**YOUR BABY'S FIRST WORD WILL
BE DADA**
by Jimmy Fallon

MR. BROWN CAN MOO CAN YOU
by Dr. Seuss

MOO BAA LA LA LA
by Sandra Boynton

LLAMA LLAMA RED PAJAMA
by: Anne Dewdney

GOODNIGHT MOON
by Margaret Wise Brown

WHERE IS BABY'S BELLY BUTTON
by Karen Katz

PEEK-A-WHO
by Nina Laden

PRESS HERE
by Herve Tullet

GLOBAL BABIES
by Global Fund for Children

MOMMIES SAY SHH
by Patricia Polacco

DON'T TOUCH THE BUTTOM
by Bill Cott

