








Reading Tips

for Infants and Toddlers (Ages Birth to 2)

Raising a reader begins years before a child learns to read independently, and even before a toddler mimics words, remembers characters, or asks to hear favorite stories repeatedly. Groundbreaking findings point to the important role that daily read-aloud times with parents and other caring adults play in early brain development. Savoring a book in your company can be as great a motivator as the book itself. Here are research-based tips for getting infants and toddlers off to a great start with reading:

-  **From the time your baby is born, introduce nursery rhymes, songs, and finger plays as well as books with simple illustrations and engaging text.** These offer an opportunity to build vocabulary and the ability to distinguish between sounds (phonological awareness)—two qualities important to later reading skills.
-  **Give your child hands-on experiences with sturdy board books.** Your child can practice simple motor skills and begin to learn how to use a book (positioning a book right-side up, turning pages from front to back, etc.) as early as 8 months of age.
-  **Spend a total of 15 minutes per day with baby and books.** Read a little bit at different times during the day. Observe baby's readiness to engage in books and laptime. Create regular reading times, such as at bedtime, after naps, or in transition from child care to home. Read with dramatic expression and enthusiasm.
-  **Choose attention-getting books** with rhyming words, repeated phrases, recurring patterns, and sounds (such as *moo*, *cluck*, and *boom!*).
-  **Encourage simple discussions once your toddler has a vocabulary of 50 words.** Point out and talk about content. Frequently ask “what” questions, such as “What’s that?” “What color is it?” “What is she doing?” Provide answers if the child doesn’t respond.
-  **Praise a toddler’s responses and spontaneous comments.** Model and praise gentle use of books. Give daily affirmations about behavior and personality. Research shows that this contributes to a child’s later ability to read.
-  **Make sure your toddler comes to associate daily reading time with positive, playful experiences** and one-to-one attention from you and other caring adults.