

What Is Early Literacy?

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.

Babies are able to process language as soon as they are born. They should be exposed to reading as soon as possible because it helps them build their understanding of the language and helps them develop early literacy skills.

Early literacy helps children:

- Build vocabulary.
- Tell stories.
- Understand letter-sound connections.
- Develop a love of literacy.

Why Is Sharing A Book With My Baby Important?

Literacy achievement is directly related to language exposure in newborns and young children. Reading is the most beneficial form of language exposure.

It strengthens your baby's ability to trust, respond to emotion and understand the world around him/her while building self-esteem. Reading also helps teach babies to talk. It is the perfect occasion to bond with your baby and create a special one-on-one time.

The Wheels On The Bus

The wheels on the bus go round
and round
Round and round, round and
round
The wheels on the bus go round
and round
All through the town

The wipers on the bus go "Swish,
swish, swish,
Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish,
swish"
The wipers on the bus go "Swish,
swish, swish"
All through the town.



References

- The AAP Parenting Website: healthychildren.org
The American Academy of Pediatrics: aap.org
The Canadian Pediatrics Society: cps.ca
The Reach Out and Read Program: reachoutandread.org

HOW TO SHARE A A BOOK WITH YOUR 1 YEAR OLD



EARLY LITERACY A KEY TO SUCCESS



Creating A Good Reading Environment

- 1 year olds tend to have strong preferences. It is best not to force them to read if they are not in the mood. Pick an alternative activity instead.
- Find a quiet and cozy place, free of distractions such as TV.
- Reading can be part of your daily bedtime routine.
- Remember 1 year olds can only pay attention for 3 to 5 minutes at a time.

Tips For Sharing A Book With Your 1 Year Old

- Read with enjoyment.
- Name the pictures your baby points at.
- Help your baby turn the pages.
- Act out pictures using your face, hands and voice.
- Vary the tone of your voice while reading, create different voices for the characters, but do not use "baby talk."
- Ask your baby questions he/she can answer by pointing. E.g. *Where is the cow?*
- Name actions and emotions. E.g. *Jumping. The boy is jumping.* You can even demonstrate them!
- Follow your baby's interests!

Your Baby May...

- Choose a favourite book.
- Copy your reactions.
- Smile, laugh and babble.
- Hold onto a book and and point to pictures they want to show you.
- Make sounds while looking at images.

Books For 1 Year Olds

- Books about food, animals or other babies.
- Lift-the-flap, textured or other interactive books.
- Books with pictures of simple objects.
- Sturdy board books.

Reading Alternatives And Complimentary Activities

- Telling stories.
- Singing.
- Talking with your baby.
- Describing pictures.
- Attend storytime or other parent-child activities at public libraries.