

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. It is also the perfect occasion to bond with your baby and create a special one-on-one time.

Mary Had A Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb, whose fleece was white as snow.

And everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go.

It followed her to school one day which was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play, to see a lamb at school.

And so the teacher turned it out, but still it lingered near,

And waited patiently about, till Mary did appear.



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 6 MONTH OLD



EARLY LITERACY A KEY TO SUCCESS



Your Baby May...

- Copy sounds, looks on your face and gestures you make.
- Hold onto a book and pat pictures.
- Smile, laugh and babble.

Books For 6 Month Olds

- Books with rhymes, rhythm and repetition.
- Books with pictures of babies and faces.
- Books with textures so your baby can feel.
- Soft, waterproof books.

Reading Alternatives And Complimentary Activities

- Telling stories.
- Narrating actions as you cook a meal or dress your baby, etc.
- Singing songs and nursery rhymes.
- Speaking to your baby.
- Describing pictures or photos.

Tips For Sharing A Book With Your 6 Month Old

- Read slowly.
- Name and point to pictures.
- Act out pictures using your face, hands and voice.
- Copy the sounds and facial expressions baby makes -it let's your baby know you care about their interests and feelings
- Vary the tone of your voice while reading, create voices for the characters, but do not use "baby talk."
- Make funny noises and sounds.
- Talk about how your baby is enjoying the book.
- Follow your baby's interests!

Creating A Good Reading Environment

- Find a quiet and cozy place, free of distractions such as TV.
- Reading can be part of your daily bedtime routine.
- Make sure your baby is awake and calm.
- A few minutes is okay. 6 month olds can pay attention for only a few minutes at a time.