

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

Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

Baa, baa, black sheep,

Have you any wool?

Yes sir, yes sir,

Three bags full.

One for the master,

One for the dame,

And one for the little boy

Who lives down the lane



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 3 MONTH OLD



EARLY LITERACY A KEY TO SUCCESS



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. 3 month olds can pay attention for only a minute or 2 at a time.

Tips For Sharing A Book With Your 3 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 a "baby voice."
- Make funny noises and sounds.
- Follow your baby's interests!

Your Baby May...

- Watch and copy the looks on your face.
- Listen and copy the sounds you make.
- Smile and coo.
- Move their arms and legs to show you they want to keep playing.

Books For 3 Month Olds

- Books with rhymes, rhythm and repetition.
- Books with bright colours.
- Books with simple, high contrast pictures.
- Soft, waterproof books.

Reading Alternatives And Complimentary Activities

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