

Early Literacy Skills

Story

Tell little stories to your baby. This will foster the **narrative skills** your child will need later for reading, and eventually, for writing.

Sounds

Sing songs, play games with words, and share rhymes. This will foster the **phonological awareness** necessary to prepare for reading, speech, and language.

Books

Find simple books and share them often. A soothing routine that includes books fosters **print motivation**.

Direction

Hold a book and pat the page as you read. This makes a connection for baby that leads to **print awareness**.

Words

Say the names of everyday things when you are with your baby and describe them. This develops **vocabulary**, which the child needs to speak, and later, to read.

Letters

Draw letters on your baby's tummy as you talk to him. Make a game of counting numbers out on fingers, toes, and other things. Both are considered **letter knowledge**, which a child needs as a building block to reading.

Literacy Development

What Parents Can Do:

When your child hands you a book, read it to your child.

Let the child control the book.

Be comfortable with your toddler's short attention span.

Ask "Where's the ____?" and let the child point.

What Baby Can Do at This Age:

No longer mouths right away.

Vocalizes, pats pictures.

Points at pictures with one finger.

May make same sounds for a particular picture.

Points when asked "where is ____?"

Turns book right side up.

Gives book to adult to read.

Listens while busy at play.

Books for This Age:

Books with sturdy pages.

Brightly colored chunky board books.

Small plastic photo albums of family and friends.

Remember...

Model the behavior you want your child to learn.

Distract or redirect your child.

Save "no" primarily for safety issues.

Use non-verbal communication like a stern or firm look for minor incidents.

Be clear and consistent.

Never use spanking or other physical punishment.



The process of brain development for reading starts before birth through quiet talking and singing to your baby.

It continues after birth through touch, love, eye contact, one-on-one interaction and repetition.

The ritual of talking together and sharing books starts early.

Learning to read comes later.



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	STORY	BOOKS	SOUNDS	DIRECTION	WORDS	LETTERS
AT HOME	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuddle and read a book.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuddle and read a book. Let your child pick out the book.	<input type="checkbox"/> Play hide and seek with a musical toy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Play an age-appropriate puzzle (1-6 pieces).	<input type="checkbox"/> Name familiar household objects.	<input type="checkbox"/> Eat an alphabet food-noodles, soup, or cereal.
ON THE GO	<input type="checkbox"/> Tell a family story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Give the child a book to "read" while you are driving.	<input type="checkbox"/> Play a favorite CD and sing along together.	<input type="checkbox"/> Read the signs out loud as you drive to your destination.	<input type="checkbox"/> Talk about where you are going and what you will do when you get there.	<input type="checkbox"/> Look for shapes in the signs you pass.
AT THE LIBRARY	<input type="checkbox"/> Read nursery rhymes and Mother Goose stories.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend story time or other program.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend a story time or music program.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuddle and read a book.	<input type="checkbox"/> Point to words and familiar objects as you read.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuddle and read an alphabet book.
IN THE STORE	<input type="checkbox"/> Explain about meals and what types of food you eat for each.	<input type="checkbox"/> Read <i>Maisy Goes Shopping</i> or <i>Sheep in a Shop</i> or other books about shopping experiences.	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore food textures and talk about the sounds different foods make.	<input type="checkbox"/> Talk about "in," "out," "under" the shopping cart.	<input type="checkbox"/> Model the names of familiar objects for your child.	<input type="checkbox"/> Look for and point out familiar objects and shapes in the store.
AT BEDTIME	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuddle and read your favorite book.	<input type="checkbox"/> Read a book and talk about the story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sing a quiet song.	<input type="checkbox"/> Let your child turn the pages as you read books.	<input type="checkbox"/> Let your child point out familiar objects as you read.	<input type="checkbox"/> Play with foam shapes / letters in the bathtub.



ACTIVITY LOG

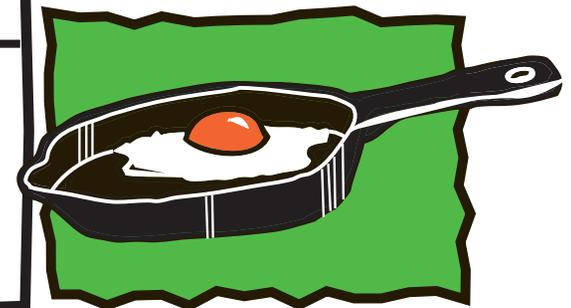
13-18 MONTHS

Check off the activities as you do them with your child.

Choosing an activity from each column to complete six across will strengthen pre-reading skills in your child.

Continue until you have filled in the whole chart.

Think up similar activities until your child is developmentally ready for the next activity log.



This Activity Log belongs to: _____

*See the Growing Like a Read stand-up book.