



Sharing Books with Babies & Toddlers

Make Sharing Books Part of Every Day: Read or share stories at bedtime or on the bus.

Have Fun: Children can learn from you that books are fun and that is an important ingredient in learning to read.

A Few Minutes is OK: Don't worry if you don't finish the story. Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they will be able to sit longer.

Talk or Sing About the Pictures: You do not have to read the words to tell a story.

Let Children Turn the Pages: Babies need board books and help turning pages, but a three-year-old can do it alone. Remember, it's OK to skip pages!

Show Children the Cover Page: Explain what the story is about.

Show Children the Words: Run your finger along the words as you read them from left to right.

Make the Story Come Alive: Create voices for the story characters and use your body to tell the story.

Make It Personal: Talk about your own family, pets, or community when you are reading about others in a story.

Ask Questions About the Story, and Let Children Ask Questions Too: Use the story to engage in conversation and to talk about familiar activities and objects.

Let Children Tell the Story: Children as young as three years old can memorize a story, and many children love to be creative through storytelling.