

## Early Literacy Cradle to Kindergarten



### Your Baby

Once your baby arrives, reading to your newborn is a must. Your baby won't understand your words, but hearing your voice stimulates an interest in sounds and helps him develop listening skills.

Plus, no matter what your baby's age, reading together is a great opportunity for cuddling and bonding. By developing a regular reading routine from the start, books become a natural part of your child's day — one that he'll associate with fun.

(Source~babycenter, EXPERT ADVICE)

Reading aloud to your baby is a wonderful shared activity you can continue for years to come — and it's an important form of stimulation.

Reading aloud:

- teaches a baby about communication
- introduces concepts such as numbers, letters, colors, and shapes in a fun way
- builds listening, memory, and vocabulary skills
- gives babies information about the world around them

(Source~Reading Books to Babies)

### Your One Year Old

Believe it or not, by the time babies reach their first birthday they will have learned all the sounds needed to speak their native language. The more stories you read aloud, the more words your child will be exposed to and the better he or she will be able to talk.

Even though one-year-olds have no awareness of print at this age, they take pleasure in nursery rhymes and books with single pictures of familiar and related items.

They may apply their growing vocabularies by naming pictures in books read to them.

Children this age also have no understanding of true "writing," but many enjoy experimenting with marks and scribbles on a surface.

(Source~Child Development Tracker)

"You may have tangible wealth untold;  
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.  
Richer than I you can never be--  
I had a Mother who read to me"  
—From *The Reading Mother* by  
Strickland Gillilan (1869-1954)

### Your Two Year Old

Two-year-olds enjoy using their senses and motor skills to explore the world and are highly curious about unfamiliar objects, events and phenomena.

Children this age are laying the ground-work for reading and writing. They enjoy having books read to them and may pretend to "read" as they independently look through familiar books

During the first half of this year, most children have short attention spans for stories and are easily distracted. Simple event "stories," such as *The Snowy Day* and *Goodnight Moon*, as well as predictable text books, such as *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* and *I Went Walking*, are of interest to many children

(Source~Child Development Tracker)

Web addresses for more information:

~ <http://nunu.pbs.org/parents/childdevelopmenttracker/>

~ <http://www.babycenter.com/>

~ [http://kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/reading\\_babies.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/reading_babies.html)

## Your Three Year Old

Pass by a crosswalk sign with a symbol of a walking adult and child and your child blurts out, "Crosswalk!" Recognizing symbols is one of the first steps in learning to read. While most children won't be ready to read on their own for another couple of years, many kids this age are what's called "pre-emergent readers."

While it's important to teach letters and sounds, these isolated skills won't magically turn your child into a reader. In fact, overemphasizing mechanics can be a frustrating turnoff to a child who's not ready. For this age group, it's better to just have fun with language. Sing a book instead of reading it. Listen to a book on tape — especially one your child is already familiar with. Buy toys that are characters from favorite books, or make simple stick puppets and act out the story.

(Source...BabyCenter.com)

The Information in this  
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## Your Four Year Old

Preschoolers who read independently are the exception. These early readers use picture clues and have learned to match letters to sounds and words. They may have longer attention spans and have memorized a few sight words. (Sight words are common words like "and," "the," "her," and "there" that can't be learned through pictures.) If your child is an early reader, you don't need to do anything more than offer encouragement and provide plenty to read.

If your child isn't on the fast track, don't give it another worry. At 4, many children just aren't ready to sit still and focus on a book for long. Others may learn the mechanics of reading but aren't cognitively ready to comprehend the words. Reading is truly one of those skills that children acquire when they're darn well ready, no matter how much their parents or teachers coax. In fact, too much prodding can turn your child off reading.

Right now, it's most important to get your child excited about books. If he loves stories and language, he'll start putting the basic elements together on his own when it's right for him.

(Source...BabyCenter.com)

## Your Five Year Old

Five-year-olds begin to extend their oral language skills to reading and writing. They know their uppercase and most lowercase letters, and understand that letters represent specific sounds in spoken words. This knowledge helps them to sound out words in print and write out words based on their sounds. They also understand the basic conventions of print, can discuss stories and are able to tell their own tales.

Interest and enjoyment of books is highly variable, depending on availability of books and whether adults spend time sharing these with children in positive ways.

### Parents should read to their kids daily, doctors recommend



Tue, Jun 24, 2014 (HealthDay News) — All pediatricians should encourage parents to read out loud to their children every day, beginning in infancy, to promote literacy and strengthen family ties.

That clarion call comes in a new policy statement issued Tuesday by the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Early Childhood.

The aim of the recommendation is to help parents "immunize their children against illiteracy," said statement author Dr. Pamela High, director of developmental and behavioral pediatrics at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, R.I., and a professor at Brown University.....

The stakes are high. Every year, more than one of every three American children start kindergarten without the language skills they need to learn to read, a disadvantage from which it is hard to recover, High noted.....

(Complete Story available at [www. BabyCenter.com](http://www.BabyCenter.com))