

Suggested Books for Reading with My Child

Parent Workshop

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Why Is It Important to Read to Your Child?

The benefits go far beyond literacy

Writer: Hannah Sheldon-Dean

Clinical Expert: Laura Phillips, PsyD, ABPdN

From birth, babies are hardwired to develop language skills, and consistent exposure to a wide variety of language patterns is what helps them do exactly that. “Just exposure to words is the single most important thing that you can do to help build the language pathways in your child’s brain,” says Laura Phillips, PsyD, the senior director of the Learning and Development Center at the Child Mind Institute.



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“Reading and exposure to words helps kids maximize their language and cognitive capacity.”

Even just holding a book can support a baby’s cognitive development.

Early Reading instills a loving relationship with books!



- **Best Baby Books Overall:** Moo, Baa, La La La!; Where Is Baby's Belly Button?; I Am A Baby; If Animals Kissed Goodnight; Look, Look!; Kisses, Kisses, Head To Toe!
- **Best Classic Baby Books:** Goodnight Moon; Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?; The Very Hungry Caterpillar; Chicka Chicka Boom Boom; The Snowy Day
- **Best Baby Board Books:** That's Not My Unicorn; Where's Ellie?; Tummy Time Friends; Sleepy Toes; Duck & Goose; I'll Love You Till The Cows Come Home; Toesy Toes
- **Best Cloth Baby Books:** Itsy-Bitsy Spider; Baby Faces; Guess How Much I Love You; Manhattan Toy Wimmer-Ferguson Nursery Novel Soft Cloth Book; Baby's Day
- **Best Interactive Baby Books:** Pat The Bunny; Dear Zoo; Garden Sounds, Baby Touch and Feel: Trucks; Don't Tickle the Crocodile; Never Touch a Porcupine; Taco Tuesday
- **Best Baby Books That Celebrate Diversity:** Everywhere Babies; Antiracist Baby; Ten Little Fingers/Tengo Diez Deditos; Global Babies; Love Makes A Family
- **Best Educational Baby Books:** Sometimes Babies...; Baby Sees Colors!; Alphablock; First 100 Words; My First Signs: American Sign Language

Forbes: The 40 Best Baby Books You'll Enjoy Reading Over And Over Again

(Click the title above to read the article)

Sensory Tables

A sensory table gives kids an opportunity to engage in dump and fill, hide-and-seek type of play, which helps develop their cognitive skills for learning.

Here are some activities to try:

- Sand and water play: fill any box with sand or water, and add different toys too
- Playing with food: encourage play through squishing, smearing, and tasting food
- Homemade musical instruments
- Painting
- Sensory bottle
- Indoor obstacle course
- Playdough
- Sensory bin



Sensory table activities/materials are not developmentally appropriate for children under the age of eighteen months; the potential health and safety hazards outweigh the benefits for use with this age groups.

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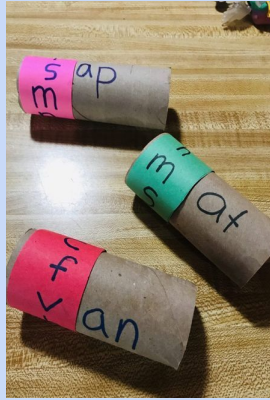
Children are exposed to the same language of caregivers and parents, the same patterns and same vocabulary words. Books allow them to hear new vocabulary and new ways of putting words together, which expands their ability to make sense of and use language.



Best Books for Ages 3 – 5

Book	Activity
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak	Create their own Wild Thing by combining animal images from old magazines.
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle	Flatten some green and red cupcake liners, add googly eyes and sequins, then create an adorable caterpillar.
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown	For little ones, cut out a white circle and have them draw legs. They could take their moon on a walk around your home and then find objects that begin with the letter Mm.
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff	This is the perfect opportunity to begin the journey of Books and Cooks. Make chocolate chip cookies or any cookie of your choice and read and then reread this book again with zest!
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willem	Make some fabulous feathered friends by creating a paper plate pigeon with tissue paper.

Fun Activities You Can Make with Household Items



Create word families with paper rolls



Pom Pom Activity for fine motor development and sensory delight



Make a duck from tissue paper and paper plate after listening to Ten Little Rubber Ducks by Eric Carle



Create phonics baskets by placing small objects in bins that begin with the same sound



Fun activity to read the story, "The Kissing Hand" before their first day of school and make their handprint



Letter identification: Matching game with letters

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Research has found that young children whose parents read to them daily have been exposed to at least 290,000 more words by the time they enter kindergarten than kids who aren't read to regularly. This number can get into the millions depending on how often a child is read to and exposed to new vocabulary.

Reading develops background knowledge which is helpful once they start school.



Best Books for Ages 6 – 9

Book	Activity
Dinosaurs Before Dark (Magic Tree House, #1) by Mary Pope Osborne	Enjoy reading chapter books with your child by asking questions such as What was their favorite chapter? Who was their favorite character and why?
The Boxcar Children (The Boxcar Children, #1) by Gertrude Chandler Warner	Develop a log of all the books in the Boxcar Children series and create a book challenge. You can do this with any book series that interests your child. Read the books together and discuss the series. This is a great way to keep the love of reading alive and well as they grow older. Keep reading aloud to your child even after they have learned to read.

Best Books for Ages 6 – 9

Book	Activity
Amelia Bedelia (Amelia Bedelia, #1) by Peggy Paris	Have fun with idioms such as <i>it's raining cats and dogs</i> with the Amelia Bedelia book series.
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White	Ask questions relating to story elements such as: What was the story about? When did the story take place? What was the problem in the story? Who was in the story?
Flat Stanley (Flat Stanley, #1) by Jeff Brown	Send a paper copy of Flat Stanley to friends and family members and explain the story. Have them write back to your child telling them of their adventures with Flat Stanley. It is so hilarious!

Discover your child's interests and find books that align. Have fun exploring with your child! Reading what they love is the reward!

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Having a consistent “story time” in your young child’s day, without other distractions or demands gives both you and your child a chance to slow down and connect. Even just a few minutes a day can be an enjoyable activity, TOGETHER.



Camden County Library System

(Click the title above to visit the library's website)



Camden County Library
Vogelson Branch

Provides many engaging literacy events for all ages.

50 Books All Kids Should Read Before They're 12 | Common Sense Media

(Click the title above to read the article)



Let's explore books!

11 Ways Parents Can Help Their Children Read

(Click the title above to read the article)



By Timothy Shanahan
One of the authors of the Wonders
McGraw Hill Reading Series

The Importance of Reading to Your Children

(Click the title above to view the video)



“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”

—Emilie Buchwald



Reading together leads to lifelong readers!