



# Why Read to My Baby?

# Why read aloud to your infant:

They won't understand, so why do it?

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.

# Happy 1st Birthday!!

- **THEY KNOW IT ALL BY THE AGE OF ONE!**
  - Believe it or not, but by the time your baby reaches their first birthday they will have learned all the sounds needed to speak their native tongue.
- **READING LEADS TO TALKING!!**
  - 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.
- **WHAT THEY HEAR HELPS THEM LEARN!**
  - Hearing words helps to build a rich network of words in a baby's brain. Kids who are read to during their early years are more likely to struggle less when it comes time to learn how to read.

# How Does Reading Benefit Your Baby Social-Emotional Development?

- ❑ **What they hear translates emotionally!**
  - Hearing you read with enthusiasm, such as using expressive sounds or different voices for different characters, builds **emotional awareness** in infants.
- ❑ **Leads to questioning and understanding!**
  - Reading also invites your baby to look, point, touch, and answer questions – all of which promote social development and thinking skills. Your baby improves language skills by imitating sounds, recognizing pictures, and learning words.
- ❑ **POSITIVE CONNECTION**
  - But perhaps the most important reason to read aloud is that it makes a connection between the things your baby loves the most – **YOUR voice and YOU**, which is then affiliated with books.

# Different Ages, Different Stages

- ❑ **Between 4 and 6 months**, your baby may begin to show more interest in books. He or she will grab and hold books, but will mouth, chew, and drop them as well. Choose sturdy vinyl or cloth books with bright colors and repetitive or rhyming text.
- ❑ **Between 6 and 12 months**, your child is beginning to understand that pictures represent objects, and most likely will develop preferences for certain pictures, pages, or even entire stories. Your baby will respond while you read, grabbing for the book and making sounds, and by 12 months will turn pages (with some help from you), pat or start to point to objects on a page, and repeat your sounds.

# How & What to Read!

The greatest thing about reading aloud: It doesn't take special skills or equipment, **just you, your baby, and some books.**

Read aloud for a few minutes at a time, but do it often. Don't worry about finishing entire books – focus on pages that you and your baby enjoy.

# How & What to Read!

## **Routine is the Key**

Try to set aside time to read every day – perhaps before naptime and bedtime. In addition to the pleasure that cuddling your baby before bed gives both of you, you'll also be making life easier by establishing a routine. This will help to calm your baby and set expectations about when it's time to sleep.

# What to Read to Your Infant.

## ❑ REPETITIVE TEXT

Books for babies should have simple, repetitive text and clear pictures. During the first few months of life, your child just likes to hear your voice, so you can read almost anything, especially books with a sing-song or rhyming text. As your baby gets more interested in looking at things, choose books with simple pictures against solid backgrounds.

## ❑ Developmental Milestones and books

- **GRABBING**- Once your baby begins to grab, you can read vinyl or cloth books that have faces, bright colors, and shapes.

- **RESPONSE**- When your baby begins to respond to what's inside of books, add board books with pictures of babies or familiar objects like toys.

- **TALKING**- When your child starts talking, choose books that invite babies to repeat simple words or phrases.



# What to Read to Your Infant.

## TYPES OF BOOKS

- **Texture books**- Books with mirrors and different textures (crinkly, soft, scratchy) are also great for this age group, as are fold-out books that can be propped up, or books with flaps that open for a surprise.
- **Board books**- Board Books make page turning easier for infants and vinyl or cloth books can go everywhere
- **Photo Books**- Babies of any age like photo albums with pictures of people they know and love.
- **Nursery Rhymes**- And every baby should have a collection of nursery rhymes they offer a variety of benefits to helping your child learn how to read.

## JUST HAVE BOOKS!

One of the best ways you can ensure that your little one grows up to be a reader is to have books around your house and read them often!

# Additional Reading Tips

- ❑ Read with expression, pitching your voice higher or lower where it's appropriate or using different voices for different characters.
- ❑ Don't worry about following the text exactly. Stop once in a while and ask questions or make comments on the pictures or text. ("Where's the kitty? There he is! What a cute black kitty.") Your child might not be able to respond yet, but this lays the groundwork for doing so later on.
- ❑ Sing nursery rhymes, make funny animal sounds, or bounce your baby on your knee – anything that shows that reading is fun.
- ❑ Babies love – and learn from – repetition, so don't be afraid of reading the same books over and over. When you do so, repeat the same emphasis each time as you would with a familiar song.
- ❑ As your baby gets older, encourage him or her to touch the book or hold sturdier vinyl, cloth, or board books. You don't want to encourage chewing on books, but by putting them in his or her mouth, your baby is learning about them, finding out how books feel and taste – and discovering that they're not edible!



# Reading Readiness

The Top 5 Skills Your Preschooler Needs



## Did you know??

Did you know that there are five skills a child should master before they begin formal reading instruction?

These reading readiness skills are so important, we call them **The Big Five Skills!**

# Parents, you can help!

Although much of your child's learning comes naturally as he plays and experiences life, there are some skills, like reading, that must eventually be taught. That may feel a little scary, but if you've taught your child how to pick up his toys or put on his socks, you can teach your child to read, too!

In this presentation, you'll learn about the skills for reading readiness, and you'll discover more than twenty fun ways you can help your preschooler or kindergartner develop in these areas. Let's begin!

# 5 Critical Skills for Reading Readiness

## 1 Print Awareness

-Print awareness is the understanding that the print on a page represents words that have meaning, and are related to spoken language.

# To Develop these skills

- Help your child learn how to hold a book correctly.
- As you read books together, emphasize the fact that you're reading from front to back and from left to right. Let your child turn the pages.
- As your child helps you in the kitchen, point out the names on the food boxes and cans and the ingredients as you read your recipe.
- Point out and read road signs and store signs as you travel in the car

# 5 Critical Skills to Reading Readiness

## 2 Letter Knowledge

-Letter knowledge enables a child to recognize the letters of the alphabet and to know the names and sounds of each.



# To Develop these skills

- Sing the alphabet song together. Practice starting at different letters.
- Use activities that help children recognize both uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Begin to encourage an association between letter names and the sounds they make.
- Explore the alphabet with refrigerator magnets.
- Create the alphabet with building blocks or form letters with playdough.

# 5 Critical Skills to Reading Readiness

## **3** Phonological Awareness

-It's a big term, but it's really quite basic.  
phonological awareness is the ability to hear and identify the various sounds in spoken words.

# To Develop these skills

- Read lots of nursery rhymes and rhyming picture books together. Encourage your child to anticipate rhyme as you read together.
- Play clapping and rhyming games like Miss Mary Mack and Pat-a-Cake.
- Sing silly songs by changing the first sound in some of the words. For example, sing, “Bingle bells, bingle bells, bingle all the bay,” or “If you’re chappy and you chow it, chap your chands.”
- Play games that encourage children to identify words that begin with a specific letter sound. For example, say, “I spy with my little eye a color that starts with /r/.”

# 5 Critical Skills to Reading Readiness

## 4 Listening Comprehension

-Listening comprehension is the ability to understand the meaning of words heard and to relate to them in some way. A child with good listening comprehension has a wide vocabulary and a growing understanding of the world around him.

# To Develop these skills

- Read aloud to your children daily. Read books that are in line with your child's interests so he begins to realize that there is a benefit to learning to read.
- Encourage even young children to interact with books.
- Attend story time at the library.
- Let your child see you enjoying books.
- Make read-aloud time an enjoyable shared time. Here are some picture book lists to get you started.

<https://info.allaboutlearningpress.com/picture-book-library-lists>

# 5 Critical Skills to Reading Readiness

## 5 Motivation to Read

-Motivation to read is a child's eagerness and willingness to read.

# To Develop these skills

- Read both fiction and nonfiction books to your child.
- As you read, ask open-ended questions. For example, ask “What do you think is going to happen when we turn the page?” or “Why did the boy go outside?”
- Use everyday life experiences to build your child’s vocabulary.
- Encourage imaginative play and storytelling.

# Is Your Child Ready to Read?

Provided is a checklist to help determine if your child is ready to learn how to read! Complete the checklist to determine if your child has the skills needed to be a successful reader!

After completing this checklist, you'll be able to identify the pre-reading skills that your child still needs to work on.





# One Final Note!

I am a strong believer in letting kids be kids and not pushing academics too early. But I also know from extensive experience that most kids don't develop reading readiness skills on their own.

The majority of a young child's day should be filled with play, real-life activities, and physical exploration. Add in just a touch of daily intentional instruction in these five reading readiness areas, and your child will have a huge advantage when it comes time to read.