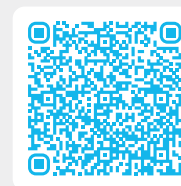


First steps in reading: Tips for reading with baby

Babies begin learning language from birth. Hearing words helps their brains form connections essential for reading.

Early literacy skills start before communication signals and continues through preschool. Research shows the words children know at ages 3–4 predict reading comprehension in 3rd and 4th grade. Here are tips to give your child a strong start.



Scan for more information, services and resources.

How to read to your baby

Read daily:

Just 15 minutes a day, together or in short bursts, boosts your baby's brain and strengthens your bond.

Sit baby on your lap:

Closeness helps bonding and lets your baby hear and see you clearly.

Choose stimulating books:

Pick short books with bright colors, simple images, rhymes, textures or high-contrast pages. Let babies touch and explore.

Be animated:

Use different voices, volumes and point to pictures to help babies connect words with images.

Start building your at-home library

Babies enjoy cloth, vinyl and board books with simple stories and familiar pictures. Repeating the same books helps them engage more deeply as they grow.

Resources to build your home library:

- [Make Way For Books](#)
- [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#)
- [Reach Out and Read](#)



Visit your local library

You can also visit your local public library or family resource center to access books for your baby. Benefits include:

Encourages bonding:

Library visits can be fun, educational outings that foster a love of reading.

Social interaction:

Opportunities to connect with other families and children.

Community resources:

Many locations offer storytimes, literacy programs and workshops.