



Learning & Growing Together

An online newsletter for parents!

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Early Developmental Stages of Literacy

Your child is growing and developing in many ways - physically, mentally, and socially. From birth, your child is also developing his early literacy skills.

The following is a guide of abilities for each age level and simple things, you as a parent, can do to further promote your child's early literacy. Remember, all children are different and develop skills at different times.



12 ~ 18 Month Olds

Your baby's abilities:

- ◆ sits without support
- ◆ may carry books around with him
- ◆ holds books with help
- ◆ turns the pages of board books, several at a time
- ◆ no longer puts objects in her mouth right away
- ◆ points at pictures with one finger
- ◆ may make the same sound for a particular picture
- ◆ points when he's asked, "where is...?"
- ◆ turns books right side up
- ◆ gives books to you to read

What you can do to promote your baby's literacy development:

- ◆ respond to your baby's prompting to read books
- ◆ let your baby control the book
- ◆ be comfortable with your baby's short attention span
- ◆ ask, "where is the...?" and let her point to it

6 ~ 12 Month Olds

Your infant's abilities:

- ◆ reaches for books
- ◆ puts books in her mouth
- ◆ sits in your lap and holds head steady
- ◆ turns pages with your help
- ◆ looks at pictures
- ◆ vocalizes and pats the pictures
- ◆ prefers pictures of faces

What you can do to promote your infant's literacy development:

- ◆ hold your infant comfortably with a face-to-face gaze
- ◆ follow your infant's cues for "more" and "stop"
- ◆ point to and name pictures

18 ~ 24 Month Olds

Your toddler's abilities:

- ◆ turns board books pages easily, one page at a time

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Books You Can Count On!

Any time is the right time to read a story! If you have younger children who find it hard to sit still, it's okay to continue reading. Whether they are sitting with you or playing with toys, they are hearing the language and the warmth in your voice. Their attention space will lengthen as more opportunities are offered.



The Icky Bug Counting Book
Jerry Pallotta

Fish Eyes
Lois Ehlert

Counting in the Garden
Kim Parker

The Crayon Counting Book
Pam Munoz Ryan

The Twelve Days of Kindergarten
Deborah Lee Rose

Ten Little Fish
Audrey Wood

Mouse by Mouse: A Counting Adventure
Julia Noonan

Animals to Count
Brian Wildsmith

Circus 1-2-3
Megan Halsey

One Big Building: A Counting Book About Construction
Michael Dahl

G is for One Gzonk: An Alpha-Number-bet Book
Tony DiTerlizzi

My Very First Look at Numbers
Christiane Gunzi

Click, Clack, Splish, Splash
Doreen Cronin

One Tiger Growls: A Counting Book of Animal Sounds
Ginger Wadsworth

1-2-3: A Child's First Counting Book
Alison Jay

Songs to learn and sing together!

Singing songs is a great way to have fun while fostering your child's language development! It's beneficial for their brain development, too!



The Counting Song

Sung to: *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*

By: Paula R. Westernen

Come along and count with me
It is very fun you see
Count the books and count the chairs

Counting, counting everywhere
Come along and count with me
It is very fun you see!

Our State Fair is Here

Sung to: *Happy Days Are Here Again*

By: Paula R. Westernen

Our state fair is here again
The sights, the sounds are here my friends

Can't wait to ride all the rides again

Our state fair is here again
~ 2nd verse ~ third line:

Can't wait to talk to the animals again

~ 3rd verse ~ third line:

Can't wait to watch all the shows again

Kindergarten

Sung to: *The Oscar Meyer Song*

By: Paula R. Westernen

I can't wait to go to kindergarten
That is where I truly want to be
'Cause when I go off to kindergarten
I will learn to be all I can be!

Kindergarten Here I Come

Sung to: *Oh My Darlin' Clementine*

By: Valerie Bielsker

Oh, I'm ready,
Oh I'm ready,
To leave preschool
I've learned so many things
And had lots of fun, too.

So I'm ready,
So I'm ready,
Kindergarten, here I come,
I am looking so happy,
'Cause school will be fun.

Early Developmental Stages of Literacy *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

- ◆ carries books around the house
- ◆ may use books as transitional objects
- ◆ names familiar pictures
- ◆ fills in the words in familiar stories
- ◆ "reads" to dolls or stuffed animals
- ◆ recites parts of well-known stories
- ◆ his attention span is highly variable

What you can do to promote your toddler's literacy development:

- ◆ relate the books you read to your toddler's experiences
- ◆ use books in routines and bedtimes
- ◆ ask "what's that?" and give your toddler time to answer
- ◆ pause and let your toddler complete the sentence in books with repeating or familiar lines

- ◆ goes back and forth in books to find her favorite pictures
- ◆ recites whole phrases, sometimes whole stories
- ◆ he can coordinate text with pictures
- ◆ protests when you get a word wrong in a familiar story
- ◆ reads familiar books to himself

What you can do to promote your toddler's literacy development:

- ◆ keep using books in routines
- ◆ read to your toddler at bedtime
- ◆ be willing to read the same story over and over again
- ◆ ask, "what's that?"
- ◆ relate books to your toddler's experiences
- ◆ provide crayons and paper



books

- ◆ turns pages of books one at a time
- ◆ listens to longer stories
- ◆ can retell familiar stories
- ◆ understands what text is
- ◆ moves finger along text
- ◆ "writes" name
- ◆ is moving toward letter recognition

What you can do to promote your child's literacy development:

- ◆ ask, "what's happening?"
- ◆ encourage writing and drawing and have materials available
- ◆ let your child tell the story

When it comes to developmental markers of any sort, the most important thing to remember is:

The fact that a child reaches a marker or passes through a stage is almost always more important than the age of the child when he or she does it!

24 ~ 36 Month Olds

Your toddlers abilities:

- ◆ learns to handle paper pages

3 years and up

Your child's abilities:

- ◆ competent handling of

Credit: Reach Out and Read

National Center

www.reachoutandread.org

Bring Your Stories to Life

Stories can be just as exciting for the reader as they are for listener! Use these very simple steps to bring your stories to life!



☺ *Enthusiasm* ~ if you are

energetic and enthusiastic while you are reading, your child will be more engaged in the story.

☺ *Different voices* ~ children love it when each character has a different voice. If it is a BIG BEAR, talk in a BIG LOUD voice. If the character is a shy cat, talk in a soft

whispering voice.

☺ *Act out* ~ as you read the story look for ways you can mimic what the characters are doing. If the boy is climbing a ladder ~ act like you are too. If the alligator is stomping ~ you can also.



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High Flying Fun!

It is important in the early years to establish an interest in physical activities and active games. At this age children are more naturally inclined to enjoy participating in games that get them up and moving!

Keep in mind that your preschooler should have at least 60 minutes of structured physical activity every day.

Read a good story about animals in the forest or other setting and then play this fun game with your



child. Your child will have more fun if you participate with her!

WHAT YOU NEED:

larger household items arranged as obstacles
your imagination and creativity
large space indoors or out

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Set up the household items in a simple obstacle course fashion so that your child can go around them.
2. Demonstrate how you will move through and around the obstacles.
3. Have your child stand at the beginning and say this poem with her.

4. "Walking through the forest and what do I see? I see an eagle looking at me."
5. Start flying like an eagle around the obstacles and say, "Flying through the forest and what do I see? I see a tree frog looking at me."
6. Now hop like a frog and say, "Hopping through the forest and what do I see? I see a ... looking at me."
7. Continue with animals your child remembers from the story you read.

This game is not only a great physical activity ~ it's beneficial for children's language and literacy development, too!