

Tips for Reading with your Toddler:

- Begin reading now, if you haven't already. The earlier you start, the better.
- Read together every day. Make reading part of your daily routine, perhaps at naptime and bedtime. Turn off the television, and read!
- Encourage others, including older siblings, grandparents, and babysitters, to read with your toddler and to give books for birthday or holiday gifts.
- Let your child be the leader, choosing which books to read, how long to read, and even which pages to read. End the reading when your child loses interest. Keep story times pleasant.
- Read your toddler's favorite books more than once. Then read them again. And again.
- Find a quiet, cozy place to read. Hold your child on your lap or next to you, where you can both enjoy your closeness and the book.
- Interact with books. Talk about the illustrations. Make animal noises as you look at illustrations of animals. Choose books with flaps or interesting textures. Name familiar items in illustrations and ask your child to do so. Praise your toddler's efforts to say new words.
- Keep books where your child can reach them. Provide sturdy board and cloth books, which your toddler can chew on, play with, and examine without ripping.
- Toddlers like books with bright, simple illustrations of familiar objects and animals, books about babies doing things that are familiar, and books with catchy rhythms, such as songs and nursery rhymes.
- Model your own reading and writing. Let your child see you read magazines, books, grocery lists, and birthday cards. Let him or her see that reading has value, both for pleasure and information.

Suggested Titles for Toddlers:

Pat the Bunny by Judith Kunhardt
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
The Wheels on the Bus by Paul O. Zelinsky
The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle
Time for Bed by Mem Fox