

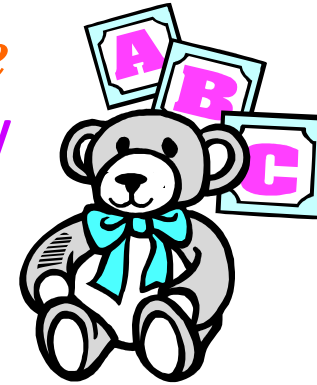


Reading Readiness from Day One

Six ideas to get you and your baby on your way

Here's a heads up on the new thinking about early childhood reading readiness.

While **Babytime** will continue to be an action-packed half hour, these six ideas will crop up in the course of our reading and bouncing.



● Print Motivation

Books are fun!

Get down with a book! Babies love board books, cloth books, picture books, and that warm fuzzy feeling of cozying up with you and a story. From her very first weeks in the world your baby will enjoy the sound of your voice and the feeling of closeness; one day she'll associate the pleasures of reading with the pleasures of that cuddly closeness.



● Vocabulary

Talk it up, Baby!

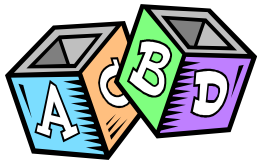
The more words your baby hears, on every subject under the sun, the more he'll have stored away in his brain when he decides to read. When that moment comes recognizing words will be that much easier.



● Print Awareness

Those interesting shapes can mean so much more!

Signs, labels, blocks, t-shirts, mugs ... letters surround us. When you start pointing out these things early on, your baby will begin to understand that there is meaning attached to printed language.



● Phonological Awareness

Words are sounds put together!

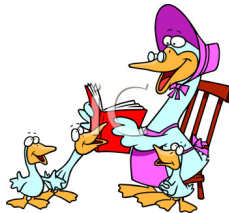
Rhymes, songs, rhythms in finger plays, all these help baby hear the variations in the sounds of words, and begin to understand that little sounds go together to make bigger words.



● Narrative Skills

What happens next!

Reading the same story over and over, predicting how the story will go, asking questions and listening to his answers will encourage your baby and toddler to begin to get to know how a story works, how it has a beginning, a middle and an end that he can be a part of.



● Letter Knowledge

Letters start out as shapes!

Learning to see shapes is a first step towards identifying letters. And books are full of shapes, colours, and objects that baby can enjoy looking at, trace with her finger and learn to understand how they can be different or the same.

