

Newborn to 6 Months

- Bold and simply illustrated books held about 10 inches away from your child work best. Some examples include Black on White and White on Black by Tana Hoban, Spot books by Eric Hill and Chicka Chicka ABC by Bill Martin.

6 Months to 12 Months

- Babies love to put everything in their mouth. Board books, cloth books and vinyl books work best for this age.
- Make reading part of their daily routine.

1 Year to 2 Years

- Start asking questions like, "Can you find the cat?" Questioning encourages your child to interact with the text.
- Children at this age really enjoy repetitive text and predictable books. You might check out: Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle, The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle or Time for Bed by Mem Fox.

2 Years to 3 Years

- Toddlers are pretty active and will enjoy acting out stories. We're Going On a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury, Bark, George by Jules Feiffer and The Wheels on the Bus by Paul O. Zelinsky fit the bill.
- They also love to hear stories about themselves. So, don't hesitate to substitute their name in place of character names in a story.
- Vocabulary is rapidly developing. Each book you read broadens that vocabulary.
- Also, encourage children to notice the fine details in illustrations. You'll be amazed at what they find that you miss!

3 Years to 4 Years

- Include books from a variety of cultures on your reading shelf.
- At this age, taste and attention span are expanding.
- While at the library, check into preschool story time. Most libraries host several events each month.

4 Years to 5 Years

- Picture books can help with major events in a child's life such as starting school, a new sibling or the death of a pet.
- Kids at this age generally have a strong interest in nature.
- Children may take an interest in reading the words themselves.

Literacy Milestones for Ages 3-4

(from Reading Rockets)

- *Enjoy listening to and talking about storybooks*
- *Understand that print carries a message*
- *Make attempts to read and write*
- *Identify familiar signs and labels*
- *Participate in rhyming games*
- *Identify some letters and make some letter-sound matches*
- *Use known letters (or their best attempt to write the letters) to represent written language especially for meaningful words like their names or phrases such as "I love you"*

Literacy Milestones by Age 5 (from Reading Rockets)

- *Sound like they are reading when pretending to read*
- *Enjoy being read to and retell simple stories*
- *Use descriptive language to explain or to ask questions*
- *Recognize letters and letter-sound matches*
- *Show familiarity with rhyming and beginning sounds*
- *Understand that print is read left-to-right and top-to-bottom*
- *Begin to match spoken words with written ones*
- *Begin to write letters of the alphabet and some words they use and hear often*
- *Begin to write stories with some readable parts*