

Parenting Future Readers

No. 7 (Month 21-22)

Did you know?

Parents are the most important role models for children's language learning. Toddlers love to imitate what mom and dad do. When you sit down to read a magazine or book this helps your child learn to read!



Did you know?

When your toddler sees you write letters or lists he learns how we use writing to communicate with others. He will want to write too!

Did you know?

Reading to toddlers increases their vocabulary and shows them "how" books are read. The special closeness of reading together gives children a good feeling about books and reading.

Did you know?

Research shows that parents who allow their toddlers to take turns in conversations have children who are more skilled in their language development at age three.

Did you know?

Toddlers learn how to write by experimenting with making marks on paper, just as they learned to say words by experimenting with making sounds. At this age children's drawings and "writing" may look the same - only the intention is different. Your toddler will tell you if her marks represent words or pictures. Over time your child's early "scribbles" will come to resemble more closely real letters.

Books for Parents:

Literacy Begins at Birth, by Marjorie Fields (Tucson, Arizona: Fisher Books), 1989.

Beyond Baby Talk: From Sounds to Sentences - A Parents' Complete Guide to Language Development, by Kenn Apel & Julie Masterson (Roseville, California: Prima Publishing), 2001.

The Read-Aloud Handbook, by Jim Trelease (New York: Penguin Books), 2001.



What can you do?

Let your child see you read.

Children will learn that reading is a valued activity in your family. You might want to set aside a quiet time when everyone in the family reads.

What can you do?

Read often to your child. Set aside a special time each day for reading. Make trips to the library to let your child select books, and to get books for yourself. Have a special low shelf for your toddler's books so he can "read" whenever he wants.

What can you do?

Let your child see you write grocery lists, recipes, letters to friends, etc. Tell your toddler the words you are writing when you make a list. When you grocery shop help your child cross the items off the list as you put the groceries in your cart.

What can you do?

Provide writing materials for your child - paper, crayons, and washable markers. Encourage children's early attempts at writing by accepting their scribbles as "real words," just as you responded to their early cooing and babbling as "talking." Include your toddler's pictures and scribbled messages in cards to relatives or friends, so your child feels you value her "words." Have a special place where you hang your child's work.



What can you do?

Talk often with your toddler about whatever you and he are doing. As you model correct speech, your child learns new words and discovers how we put words together to make sentences. Listen to the tone of your voice when you talk. Does it usually sound patient and kind or upset and impatient? Remember your child listens to more than the words you say.

What can you do?

When you talk with your toddler **pause to give her a chance to speak.** Watch to see if she pauses after talking to give you a turn.