

## Why Should I Read To My Child?

**Children who have been read to have an easier time learning to read when they start school. When you read to them, you teach them:**

- New words, such as the names of people, animals and things
- Words they will use when they learn to talk
- About the world they live in
- To watch and listen
- That reading and sharing stories is a fun way to be with others

Reading and sharing stories can also be a way to calm children.



## When You Read, It's OK To:

- Read and share stories for only a few minutes at a time. Don't worry if you don't read the whole book. Sprinkle reading times throughout the day—when waiting in line, before bedtime, and at the grocery store.
- Read to your child when he/she is sitting next to you and also when he/she is on the floor, walking around the room, or in the bathtub!
- Talk about the story and pictures in the book instead of reading all the words. Sometimes, your child may want you to point to the pictures and name them instead of reading the words. Try to do what your child wants to do.
- Start in the middle of the book or at the back. Do what your child wants to do. There are great pictures to talk about on all of the pages.
- Let your child choose the books to read. You might show your child two books and ask him/her to pick one.
- Read the same book again and again. That's one way children learn.
- Turn off the TV, computer, and cell phone when you are reading and sharing stories with your child. Then, you can give your child your full attention and make him/her feel special!
- Let your child feel the books, turn the pages, and chew on them if he/she wishes.
- Use different, funny voices when you read and share stories. It will keep your child interested. Make your time together fun for both you and your child!

**The Iowa Department of Education, along with federal partners, offer many services for children birth to 3 years old and their families. Some of these include:**

**Early ACCESS** is Iowa's system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with or at risk for developmental delays. For help in getting connected call toll-free at 1-888-IAKIDS1 or e-mail [earlyaccessia@vnsdm.org](mailto:earlyaccessia@vnsdm.org).

**Early Head Start** is a locally operated, federally funded program that provides a comprehensive child development program serving pregnant women and children birth to three with guidance, information and direct services to foster healthy development of children and their families.

**Even Start** is a federally funded program that supports improving the educational opportunities of the nation's low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program.

For more information, contact the Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services. 515/281-3924.

## References

1. **Read With Me: Birth to 3 Years.**  
[http://www.iptv.org/education/rtl\\_documents/ReadWithMe0to3.pdf](http://www.iptv.org/education/rtl_documents/ReadWithMe0to3.pdf)
2. **Everyday Ways to Support Your Baby's and Toddler's Early Learning.** [www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness](http://www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness)
3. **Center for Early Literacy Learning.**  
<http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php#toddlers>
4. **Talaris "Spotlights".**
  - a. **Mommy, I Know A Word!**
  - b. **Take A Break With Books**
  - c. **Snuggle Up For Reading!**  
<http://www.talaris.org/synopsis.htm>
5. **Washington Learning Systems. Free Parent Materials.**  
<http://www.wlearning.com/Guide.html>

# Tips For Reading With My Baby Or Toddler



## An "Every Child Reads" Collaborative Initiative Among:

Iowa Department of Education  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
State Library of Iowa  
IPTV



state library of iowa