

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.

General Tips:

- Answer your child's questions. "Drink? You are right! In this picture the puppy is drinking water."
- Use funny, different voices when you read and share stories. It will keep your child interested. You can also sing the words!
- Read slowly so your child learns that the words you read go with the pictures in the book.
- Have fun reading with your child.

Reading books with children helps them learn new words and information about their world. Cuddle with your child and enjoy your time together.



COMMENT or talk about the story and pictures.

- Talk about the front cover of the book. Tell your child what the story is about. "This book is about a big black dog."
- Say the name of the book. "The name of the book is, Star, the Dog."
- You could also tell your child who wrote it and who drew the pictures.
- Talk about what your child is looking at in the book. Point to what he/she is looking at. "That is a puppy. It is a baby dog." You will be teaching your child new words!
- Connect what is in the book to your child's life. "We have a puppy, too. He likes to eat. What does your puppy eat?"



ASK questions about what your child is looking at in the book.

- Point to a picture in a book. Ask your child what is going on. "What is the puppy doing?"
- Wait and see if your child does or says something. He/she might say "Run" or point to the picture.



RESPOND by adding a little more to what your child says. "Yes, he is running. Let's run like our puppy does." If possible, encourage your child to do what he/she sees in the book.

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.

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.

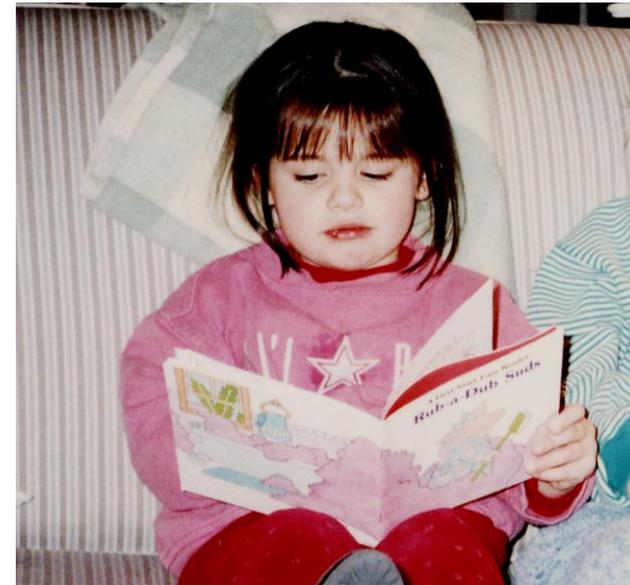
Even Start is a federally funded program that supports improving the educational opportunities of the nation's low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program.

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
2. **Everyday Ways to Support Your Baby's and Toddler's Early Learning.** 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>

What Do I Do When I Read With My Toddler?



Every Child Reads – Infants and Toddlers A Collaborative Initiative:

Iowa Department of Education
Iowa Department of Public Health
State Library of Iowa
Iowa Public Television
Reach Out and Read Iowa

