

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:

- Use funny, different voices when you read and share stories. It will keep your baby interested. You can also sing the words!
- Point to pictures.
- Have fun reading with your baby.

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



COMMENT or talk about the story and pictures.

- Talk about the front cover of the book. Tell your baby what the story is about. “This book is about animals.”
- Talk about what your baby is looking at in the book. Point to what he/she is looking at. “That is a ball.” Or, “Tyler, look. A ball.” You will be teaching your baby a new word!
- Connect what is in the book to your baby’s life. Use real objects when possible. “You have a ball. Here it is!” Show your baby his/her ball.



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

- Point to a picture in a book. Ask your baby what is going on. “What is that?”
- Wait and see if your baby does or says something. He/she might wave a foot, roll over, or say “baaaa.”



RESPOND by adding a little more. “That is a b-b-ball.”

The Iowa Department of Education, along with federal partners, offers 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, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program.

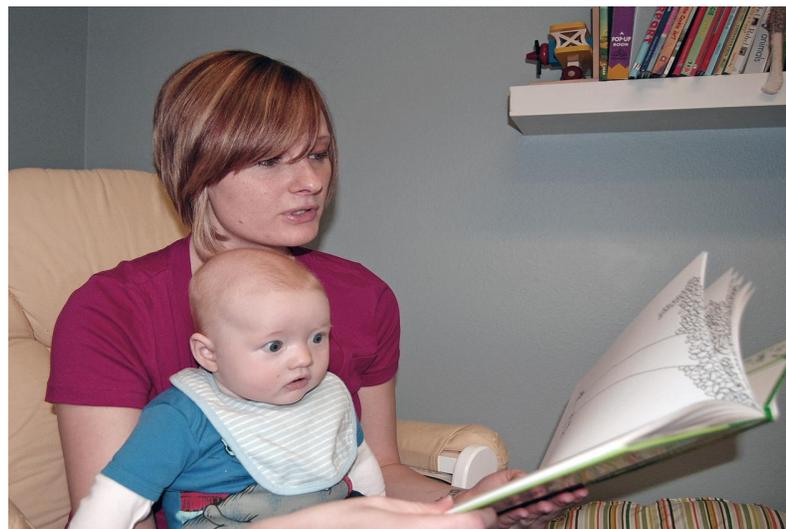
For more information, contact the Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, 515/281-3924.

References

1. **Read With Me: Birth to 3 Years.**
<http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/downloads.cfm>
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 Baby?



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