

A Parent Page

from
Head Start



Introduction To Our Early Head Start Book Project

Your home visitor will be distributing books during your home visits to read and enjoy with your child! These books can be added to your home library.

This parent page includes some tips/ activities for you to do with your child. We encourage you to fill out the enclosed In- Kind sheet to document your time spent doing them.



“Make books a part of your daily routine!”

West Central MN Communities Action, Inc.

Head Start

411 Industrial Park Blvd.
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
1-800-492-4805

The more that books are woven into children’s everyday lives, the more likely they will be to see reading as a pleasure and a gift!

How to Introduce Toddlers and Babies to Books

Activities to do with your child:

The first-and best-tip for sharing books with young children is to have **fun** together! If children are engaged and enjoying themselves, they are learning. When children have positive interactions with books, they are developing good feelings about reading, which will motivate them to continue seeking out books and other literacy materials as they grow!

Here are some other ideas for nurturing early literacy skills in your baby or toddler:

Talk or Sing About the Picture:

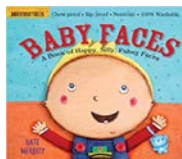
You do not have to read the words to tell a story. Try "reading" the pictures in a book for your child sometime. When your child is old enough, ask him/her to read the pictures for you!

Let Children Turn the Pages:

Babies cannot yet turn pages on their own, but an 18-month-old will want to give it a try, and a 3-year-old can certainly do it alone. Remember, it's OK to skip pages!

Show Children the Cover Page:

Explain what the story is about. If you have an older toddler, ask them to guess what the story might be about.



Show Children the Words:

Run your finger along the words as you read them, from left to right.

Make the Story Come Alive:

Create Voices for the story characters and use your body to tell the story.

Make it Personal:

Talk about your own family, pets, or community when you are reading about others in a story.

Ask questions About the Story, and Let Children Ask Questions Too:

Use the story to have a back-and-forth conversation with your child. Talk about familiar activities and objects you see in the illustrations or read about in the story.

Create books Together:

Make photo books of family members. Cut pictures out of magazines or catalogs to make word books. Make a book by having fun with crayons, markers, and paints. As your child gets older, have him/her dictate a story to you and then draw pictures to go with the words.

At Bed Time:

Soothing books and stories can work magic with babies who fight sleep!
(Adapted from www.zerotothree.org)