



8 Ways to Raise a Book-Smart Baby

Early Literacy Experiences

1. Read to your child every day, even if it's just for a few minutes.
2. Start with easy-to-handle board books. Play peek-a-boo with lift-the-flap books. When toddlers are ready, choose books with one or two sentences per page.
3. Invite your toddler to help pick out books.
4. Talk about the pictures. Ask simple "what" questions, point to words, and let your child turn the pages. Reading together should be fun!
5. Teach new words to your child when you go to the zoo or on a nature walk. At a store or restaurant, point to words on the signs and read them to your child.
6. Sing songs with your child. Don't worry about singing in tune—your child won't mind! It's the rhythm and rhyme that matter.
7. Tell stories to your child about family or things that have happened during the day. Make up stories about a favorite toy or stuffed animal.
8. Go to the library once a week.

