



# Parent's Guide to Emergent Literacy

**Pre-Talkers: Birth to 2 Years of Age**

## What is emergent literacy?

Emergent literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read or write. Early literacy skills are building blocks for later reading and writing. Children learn these skills before they start school, and this begins in infancy.

### Why parents are the best "teachers"

- Children begin to get ready to read long before they start school
- Young children have short attention spans but enjoy repeating favorite activities, parents can share these activities frequently at home
- No daycare or nursery school can provide the one on one teaching that parents can
- Parents know their children best and can take advantage of a child's good "mood"

## What can you do?

- Talk to your baby from the day you bring him/her home
- Talk about what you are doing and what the baby is seeing
- Show your baby things and talk about them
- Encourage babbling and other early attempts at communicating
- Share books often and talk about what you both see
- Books with few or no words and interesting pictures or photographs are excellent choices
- Touch and cuddle your baby while you read to them
- Visit your library and ask about the best books they recommend for babies
- Ask the librarian if they have a baby lapsit program for infants and parents/caregivers
- Let your baby experience the book, hold it, and even chew on it
- Stop reading if your child has lost interest or is tired
- Share a book with your baby every minutes each time
- **Checkout your local public library for Baby Lapsit Storytimes and sign-up**

## FACTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EMERGENT LITERACY:

- Vocabulary begins to develop at birth and continues to grow throughout the child's life.
- By 12 to 18 months of age, most children begin to talk
- Most two year olds have a vocabulary of 300 to 500 words
- Children entering school should have a vocabulary of about 3,000 - 5,000 words
- Children who are read to 3 times per week do much better in later development than children who are read to less than 3 times per week
- Be a role model and show your love of reading
- Keep books everywhere – in the diaper bag, in the car, in the stroller, in the bathroom, and in the crib
- **IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START**





## Suggested Books For Your Baby

<b>Cimarusti</b>	Peek-a-moo!
<b>Cowell</b>	What Shall We Do with The Boohoo Baby?
<b>Ellwand</b>	The Big Book of Beautiful Babies
<b>Fleming</b>	Lunch
<b>Hathon</b>	Night-Night Baby
<b>Hill</b>	Where's Spot
<b>Hoban</b>	White on Black
<b>Hubbell</b>	Pots and Pans
<b>Kopper</b>	I'm a Baby, You're a Baby
<b>Intrater</b>	Peek-a-Boo, You!
<b>Katz</b>	Counting Kisses
<b>Katz</b>	Where is a Baby's Belly Button?
<b>Melmed</b>	I Love You as Much...
<b>Meyers</b>	Everywhere Babies
<b>Miller</b>	I Love You Just the Way You Are
<b>Opie</b>	Here Comes Mother Goose
<b>Oxenbury</b>	Tickle, Tickle
<b>Prater</b>	Oh Where, Oh Where?
<b>Smith</b>	Brown Sugar Babies
<b>Tracy</b>	Show Me!
<b>Weiss</b>	Where does the Brown Bear Go?
<b>Williams</b>	The Baby's Word Book
<b>Wilner</b>	Baby's Game Book

## Suggested Titles For Parents

<b>Acrodolo</b>	Baby Minds: Brain- Games Your Baby Will Love
<b>Building</b>	
<b>Einon</b>	Learning Early
<b>Hast</b>	Infant and Toddler Experiences
<b>Honig</b>	Talking with Your Baby
<b>Lansky</b>	Games Babies Play From Birth to Twelve Months
<b>Silberg</b>	Games to Play with Babies

### Adapted from:

The Early Literacy Initiative: a partnership between the Public Library Association and the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD)

**\*\*\*Always ask your librarian to recommend new selections for you and your baby**

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