



# PARENT GUIDE TO READING ALOUD

COLORADO



Try to find time every day to share books. When children are read to by people they love, children learn to love books and begin to thrive.

## 6 TO 12 MONTHS

## 12 TO 24 MONTHS

## 2 TO 3 YEARS

## 3 TO 4 YEARS

## 4 TO 5 YEARS

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TOGETHER

- talk back and forth with your baby; make eye contact
- cuddle, sing, talk, play, read
- point at and name things: nose, ball, baby, dog...
- follow baby's cues for "more" or "stop"
- play games such as "peek-a-boo" or "pat-a-cake"
- smile and answer when your child speaks or points
- let your child help turn the pages; keep naming things
- use books in family routines; nap time, playtime, bedtime; on the potty; in the car, bus
- use books to calm or distract your child while waiting
- ask "Where's the dog?" or "Why is that?"
- be willing to read the same book again and again
- as you read, talk about the pictures
- keep using books in daily routines
- ask "What happens next?" in familiar stories
- point out letters and numbers
- point out words and pictures that begin with the same sound
- make up stories about the pictures
- relate the story to your child's own experiences
- let your child see you read
- ask your child to tell the story
- encourage writing and drawing
- point out the letters in your child's name

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD

- holds head steady
- sits in lap without support
- grasps book, puts in mouth
- drops, throws book
- holds and walks with book
- no longer puts book in mouth right away
- turns board book pages
- learns to turn paper pages, 2 to 3 pages at a time
- starts to scribble
- turns pages one at a time and from left to right
- sits still for longer stories
- scribbles and draws
- starts to copy letters and numbers
- sits still for even longer stories

### WHAT NEW SKILLS YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN

- smiles, babbles, coos
- likes and wants your voice
- likes pictures of baby faces
- begins to say "ma", "ba", "da"
- responds to own name
- pats picture to show interest
- says single words, then 2- to 4-word phrases
- gives book to adult to read
- points at pictures
- turns book right-side up
- names pictures, follows simple stories
- adds 2-4 new words per day
- names familiar objects
- likes the same book again and again
- completes sentences and rhymes in familiar stories
- recites whole phrases from books
- moves toward letter recognition
- begins to detect rhyme
- pretends to read to dolls and stuffed animals
- can listen longer
- recognizes numbers and letters
- can retell familiar stories
- can make rhymes
- learning letter names and sounds

### WHAT TO READ

- board and cloth books; books with baby faces; nursery rhymes
- board books; rhyming books; picture books, books that name things
- rhyming books; picture books that tell stories; search and find books
- picture books that tell longer stories; counting and alphabet books
- fairy tales and legends; books with longer stories, fewer pictures

