**PARENT GUIDE TO READING ALOUD**

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 TO 12 MONTHS</th>
<th>12 TO 24 MONTHS</th>
<th>2 TO 3 YEARS</th>
<th>3 TO 4 YEARS</th>
<th>4 TO 5 YEARS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHAT YOU CAN DO TOGETHER</strong></td>
<td><strong>WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD</strong></td>
<td><strong>WHAT NEW SKILLS YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN</strong></td>
<td><strong>WHAT TO READ</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• talk back and forth with your baby; make eye contact</td>
<td>• holds head steady</td>
<td>• smiles, babbles, coos</td>
<td>• board and cloth books; books with baby faces; nursery rhymes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• cuddle, sing, talk, play, read</td>
<td>• holds and walks with book</td>
<td>• says single words, then 2- to 4-word phrases</td>
<td>• board books; rhyming books; picture books, books that name things</td>
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<td>• point at and name things: nose, ball, baby, dog...</td>
<td>• no longer puts book in mouth right away</td>
<td>• gives book to adult to read points at pictures</td>
<td>• rhyming books; picture books that tell stories; search and find books</td>
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<td>• follow baby’s cues for “more” or “stop”</td>
<td>• turns board book pages</td>
<td>• turns book right-side up names pictures, follows simple stories</td>
<td>• picture books that tell longer stories; counting and alphabet books</td>
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<td>• play games such as “peek-a-boo” or “pat-a-cake”</td>
<td>• learns to turn paper pages, 2 to 3 pages at a time</td>
<td>• adds 2-4 new words per day names familiar objects</td>
<td>• fairy tales and legends; books with longer stories, fewer pictures</td>
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**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