



## Make Reading Fun

- Be as animated as you can. The age of your baby will determine how animated you should be. When they are very small a quiet, hushed voice is best. As they grow, use a variety of voices and tones to keep your baby interested.
- Don't be afraid to be silly. Make the animal sounds, moo says the cow, baa is the sound a sheep makes. Make the truck go vroom, vroom and the airplane go whir. Your baby will love it!

**For more information, visit:**

[www.thirtymillionwords.org](http://www.thirtymillionwords.org)

[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)

### 1. Read Every Day

Babies and toddlers who are read to often will have heard as many as **thirty million more words** than children who aren't read to.

### 2. Read Everything

Read billboards, cards, cereal boxes, signs, ads, newspapers, and websites.

### 3. Read Everywhere

In our community we read aloud to babies and toddlers at home, in the car, at the park, at the library, in waiting rooms, in the yard, at the homes of friends and family, at the grocery store, at the beach, at the doctor's office, at the gas station, at restaurants, at the laundromat and everywhere else we go!

*For more information, contact:*



# TIPS FOR READING TO YOUR BABY

  
**Read early. Read often.**  
Your child's success depends on it!

# Tips for Reading to Your Baby...

## Reading Techniques

- Read with your baby on your lap.
- Infants see best 7 to 8 inches from their face.
- Encourage interaction. Allow your baby to touch and feel the pages, open flaps & turn pages.
- Ask your baby to make sounds and identify pictures on the page. You may not get much response with a young infant but you are familiarizing them with grammar, sentence structure & new vocabulary.
- Create your own story. You don't have to read every word on the page or even a children's book. Your baby cares less about **what** you're reading and more about **who** is reading to them.



## Book Selection

Your child will want to explore their books. Using their eyes, hands, and mouth. For safety, the following types of books are the best.

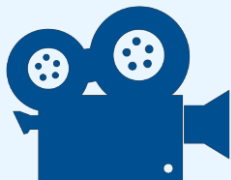
- Board books
- Fabric books
- Touch and Feel books
- Indestructible books
- Bath tub books

## Setting the Stage

- Choose to read when your child is alert, happy, and relaxed.
- Make sure they have a clean diaper.
- Avoid times when your child is hungry or fussy.
- Limit distractions. Turn off the TV and radio and put your phone on silent.

## To view the *Reading to Infants* video:

<https://www.viddler.com/embed/121632e1>



## Establish a Routine

- Consider reading at the same time each day.
- Try reading in a similar environment.
- If your baby has a comfort object, such as a blanket or stuffed animal, allow them to snuggle with it during reading time.

Reading to your baby as soon as they come home is one of the most important things you can do for them. Research has shown that daily reading:

- Supports bonding with your baby.
- Encourages speech and language development.
- Better prepares them for preschool.
- Increases their reading scores in school.

It only takes a few minutes every day and it truly is a gift you can give your child that will last forever.

