



Developmental Milestones of Early Literacy



AGE	MOTOR	COGNITIVE	WHAT PARENTS CAN DO	WHAT TO READ
6 to 12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaches for book Puts book in mouth Sits in lap, head steady Turns pages with adult help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks at pictures Vocalizes, pats picture Prefers pictures of faces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold child comfortably Follow baby's cues for "more" and "stop" Point and name pictures Sing and talk to your baby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board books – with baby faces and pictures of objects Nursery Rhymes
12 to 18 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sits without support May carry book Turns board pages, several at a time No longer puts book in mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points at pictures with one finger May make same sound for particular picture (labels) Points when asked, "Where...?" Turns book right side up Gives book to adult to read 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to child's prompting to read Let the child control the book Be comfortable with toddler's short attention span Ask "Where's the ...?" and let child point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board books Rhyming books Picture books
18 to 24 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turns board book pages, one at a time Carries book around the house May use book as transitional object (e.g. at bedtime) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names familiar pictures Fills in words in familiar stories "Reads" to stuffed animals or dolls Recites parts of familiar story Attention span highly variable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relate books to child's experiences Use books in routines, bedtimes Ask "What's that?" and give child time to answer Pause and let child complete the sentence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhyming books Wordless books Concept books Picture books that tell stories
24 to 36 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learns to handle paper pages Goes back and forth in book to find favorite pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recites whole phrases, sometimes whole stories Coordinates text with pictures Protests when adult gets a word wrong in a familiar story Reads familiar story to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep using books in routine Read at bedtime Be willing to read the same story over and over again Ask, "What's that?" Relate books to child's experiences Provide crayons and paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wordless books Picture books that tell longer stories Concept books
3 to 5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent book handling Turns paper pages one at a time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listens to longer stories Can retell familiar story Moves finger along text "Writes" name Moves toward letter recognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask, "What's happening?" Encourage writing and drawing Let child tell the story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Books with longer stories and fewer pictures Books about child's personal interest