

Developmental Considerations

Birth to 6 months

- Chunky board books, soft fabric books, or vinyl bath books.
- Though a baby may seem too little to understand, they enjoy your company and the sounds of your voice and words. Babies may recognize the book-sharing routine by calming, widening their eyes, or smiling/kicking to show excitement. Babies will also want to explore books by grabbing and chewing on the book. They may not pay attention, so take a break if they get bored.



6-9 months

- Short, simple stories with colorful illustrations.
- Babies may begin to explore books by looking, touching (opening/closing), and mouthing them. By 9 months, they may prefer or seem to recognize certain stories or pictures. A baby may also continue to occasionally mouth books. In the early years, that is a normal book behavior and tells us that babies want to explore books!



9-18 months

- Stories with rhyme/repeats catch a child's attention. Children this age also love stories with pictures of other babies and objects.
- A toddler may have a favorite story that they request all the time. Starting at about 12 months old, you can start to ask simple questions about the pictures such as "Where is the moon?" and watch to see if the baby points or gestures.



18-24 months

- Introduce longer stories with more complex plots. Humor is a big selling point at this age, along with silly rhymes.
- Don't worry if a toddler runs away when you read- kids this age just really need to move. If you keep reading, they'll still listen. Find ways to connect that energy to the story, such as asking the child to hop like the rabbit in the book. Harness your toddler's growing independence and give them the "job" of turning the pages.



24-36 months

- They may be ready for books with regular pages. Nonfiction stories are also interesting as they are figuring out how the world works.
- At this age, you can ask questions about the story that are a little tougher such as "How do you think they're feeling?" or "What do you think will happen next?" Make connections between the book and the child's life by asking questions. By 3, a child may be able to tell you the story based on the pictures. Don't be surprised if the little one wants to hear the same story over and over. Toddlers love repetition!



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