

Why Should I Read To Children?

Children who have been read to have an easier time learning to read when they start school. When you read to them, you teach them:

- New words, such as the names of people, animals and things
- Words they will use when they learn to talk
- About the world they live in
- To watch and listen
- That reading and sharing stories is a fun way to be with others

Reading and sharing stories can also be a way to calm children.



When You Read, It's OK To:

- Read and share stories for only a few minutes at a time. Don't worry if you don't read the whole book. Sprinkle reading times throughout the day—when eating a snack, before naptime, and before the children go home.
- Read to children when they are sitting next to you and also when they are on the floor, walking around the room, or in the sandbox!
- Talk about the story and pictures in the book instead of reading all the words. Sometimes, children may want you to point to the pictures and name them instead of reading the words. Try to do what the children want to do.
- Start in the middle of the book or at the back. Do what the children want to do. There are great pictures to talk about on all of the pages.
- Let the children choose the books to read. You might show a child two and ask him/her to pick one.
- Read the same book again and again. That's one way children learn.
- Turn off the TV, computer, and cell phone when you are reading and sharing stories with children. Then, you can give the children your full attention and make them feel special!
- Let the children feel the books, turn the pages, and chew on them if they wish.
- Use different, funny voices when you read and share stories. It will keep the children interested. Make your time together fun for both you and the children!

The Iowa Department of Education, and federal partners, offer many services for children birth to 3 years old and their families. Some of these include:

Early ACCESS is Iowa's system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with or at risk for developmental delays. For help in getting connected call toll-free at 1-888-IAKIDS1 or e-mail earlyaccessia@vnsdm.org.

Early Head Start is a locally operated, federally funded program that provides a comprehensive child development program serving pregnant women and children birth to three with guidance, information and direct services to foster healthy development of children and their families.

Even Start is a federally funded program that supports improving the educational opportunities of the nation's low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program.

For more information, contact the Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early childhood Services, 515/281-3924.

References

1. **Read With Me: Birth to 3 Years.**
http://www.iptv.org/education/rtl_documents/ReadWithMe0to3.pdf
2. **Everyday Ways to Support Your Baby's and Toddler's Early Learning.** www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness
3. **Center for Early Literacy Learning.**
<http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php#toddlers>
4. **Talaris "Spotlights".**
 - a. **Mommy, I Know A Word!**
 - b. **Take A Break With Books**
 - c. **Snuggle Up For Reading!**
<http://www.talaris.org/synopsis.htm>
5. **Washington Learning Systems. Free Parent Materials.**
<http://www.wlearning.com/Guide.html>



Tips For Reading With Babies And Toddlers



Every Child Reads – Infants and Toddlers A Collaborative Initiative:

Iowa Department of Education
Iowa Department of Public Health
State Library of Iowa
Iowa Public Television