



Sing

Singing slows down language so your child can hear the smaller sounds in words. Songs introduce new words in a fun and playful way.

Many songs have a beginning, middle and end. Songs, like *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*, teach storytelling skills. Add the actions to songs to build comprehension skills.

- Recite nursery rhymes
- Read rhyming books
- Listen to music, dance & play instruments
- Sing throughout the day
- Sing & bounce your baby on your lap
- Read poetry books & recite poems
- Read books you can sing aloud

Write

To learn to write, babies need to develop fine motor skills and build their hand-eye coordination.

- Encourage finger scribbling in baby food
- Practice finger painting
- Scribble with chunky crayons
- Play with toys your baby can squeeze, grasp or pick up
- Point out print & words in signs, books & newspapers



Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library
3 Community Park Road
Broomfield, Colorado | (720) 887-2315
<http://www.broomfieldlibrary.org>

Early Literacy for Babies

**Mamie Doud Eisenhower
Public Library**



Your baby loves to be close to you and hear the sound of your voice. The bond you create through books, music and playing will support your baby's learning for a lifetime.

Based on information from Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library, a program of the Public Library Association and the Association of Library Service to Children: ala.org/everychild



Read

Reading is the single most important activity for preparing children to read on their own and for building all early literacy skills.

- Hold your baby close while reading
- Read every day
- Visit the library often
- Attend baby or family story time
- Board books are perfect for babies— let your baby turn the pages & play with board books as toys
- Read books with baby faces
- Share alphabet books
- Read plastic books in the bathtub
- Read rhyming books
- Read books you love to your baby
- Point to words as you read them aloud
- Trace your baby's finger over large letters in books
- Share books featuring geometric shapes with sharp contrasts
- Read lift-the-flap & touch-and-feel books



Play

Playing with your baby is a bonding experience, but it is also one of the best ways for babies to learn language and literacy skills and build motor skills.

Put away distractions, get down on the floor and make a lot of eye contact while playing with your baby. Playing helps babies become aware of their bodies, increases curiosity, develops sense of humor and creates brain connections for future learning.

- Play with toys in the Family Place Center in the Children's Library
- Play with simple puzzles & shape toys
- Hang mobiles in your baby's crib area
- Play peek-a-boo & rhyming games
- Play with puppets & stuffed animals
- Look in the mirror together, make faces & talk about what you see
- Roll balls together
- Play with stacking toys
- Make faces & funny sounds together
- Gently bounce your baby while singing
- Play with toys your baby can grasp or squeeze



Talk

The more you talk to your child, the more words he or she will learn. Repetition builds understanding. Children need to hear words many times before understanding the meaning of the word and how to use it.

Speak in the language most comfortable for you. Children increase their understanding of the world when they hear more words in any language.

- Use positive language
- Talk to your baby in a gentle & loving manner while making lots of eye contact
- Talk about you & your baby's feelings
- Talk about the pictures in books
- Narrate your activities
- When your baby babbles or talks, listen carefully & respond
- Label things your baby sees & uses
- Talk about letters, shapes & how things are alike & different
- Read books about baby sign language & teach your baby to use signs
- Recite nursery rhymes & perform the actions

Children are born ready to learn, you provide the opportunities for learning through reading, playing, talking, singing and writing.