



Your toddler loves to be close to you. A loving relationship develops between you and your child when you share books, sing and recite rhymes together. The bond you create through books, music and playing will support your toddler'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

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.

- Read nursery rhymes & rhyming books
- Listen to music, dance & play instruments
- Sing throughout the day
- Read poetry books & recite poems
- Read books you can sing aloud
- Clap out syllables in words: "carr-ot"
- Make up rhyming songs about your child

Write

A toddler's writing looks like scribbles. Allow lots of opportunities for scribbling by providing writing tools (chunky crayons, kids safe scissors, markers, paper, sidewalk chalk) and introduce activities that build fine motor skills.

- Point out print & model writing
- Have your child scribble grocery lists
- Paint a picture with your child & write down words your child uses to describe it
- Help trace letters with your child's finger



Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library
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<http://www.broomfieldlibrary.org>

Early Literacy for Toddlers

Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library





Read

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

Children who enjoy books will want to learn how to read. Make sure you and your child are in a good mood when reading; stop if your child loses interest and try again later.

- Visit the library often
- Attend a family or toddler story time
- Share non-fiction books
- Read predictable books & have your child say the repeating phrases
- Read books over and over again to build comprehension skills
- Read poetry & rhyming books
- Point out & read print everywhere– signs, menus, food labels, books, magazines
- Make up funny voices for story characters
- Let your child choose his or her own books
- Point to words in books while reading aloud
- Let your child turn pages while you read aloud



Play

Playing with your child is a bonding experience, but it is also one of the best ways for toddlers to learn language, develop literacy skills and build fine & gross motor skills.

Follow your child's lead to enhance the playing experience. Put away distractions, get down on the floor and make a lot of eye contact while playing with your child.

- Play with toys in the Family Place Center in the Children's Library
- Keep books with your child's toys
- Play with your child by acting out nursery rhymes, tickle rhymes and action rhymes
- Act out books & stories with dress-up clothes, puppets, stuffed animals & toys
- Play with toys for solving problems– puzzles, blocks that snap, objects to sort, toys that hook, snap, button & buckle
- Play with toys for pretending & building– blocks, transportation toys, dolls, dress-up clothes, sand & water toys, puppets
- Play with toys for developing large & small muscles– balls, ride-on equipment, tunnels, pounding & hammering toys



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 about you & your child's feelings
- Talk about the pictures in books & how different characters feel
- Over dinner, tell stories about your day
- Talk about letters, shapes & how things are alike & different
- Share books with noisy sounds & make them together- "moo", "beep", "crash"
- Do not replace unfamiliar words in books with ones your child already knows; read the word & explain what it means
- Ask questions about the story while reading
- Explain the order in which you do things– first, second & third

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