

Early Literacy for Babies – It's More than Books!

Read

Make stories part of your daily routine. Set aside time each day to cuddle up and enjoy books. Babies love to hear their favourite stories repeated over and over. You don't always have to read all of the words – talking about the pictures is important, too! Try to include your baby when you read and sing with other children. Your baby is learning that books, songs and reading are fun and interesting.

Sing

Babies love to hear the sound of your voice. Singing or chanting rhymes can be fun and comforting for your baby. Use lots of expression in your voice, make silly faces and have fun using words and sounds. Encourage your baby's coos, growls and gurgles. This is your baby's way of learning to speak and communicate with you.

Play

Play tickle games like 'Round & Round the Garden' or surprise games like 'Peek-a-Boo.' Play with cause-and-effect toys like a pop-up toy. Give your child a turn to point to a picture, turn a page, or roll a ball back to you. Your baby is learning about taking turns in a conversation.

Discover

Use puppets to make story time fun and interactive. Make up your own stories. Tell family stories to help teach your child cultural traditions. Speak in the language that feels most natural for you.

Learn

Talk with your baby all day long. Describe the weather, which apples you choose at the grocery store, or the clothes that your baby is wearing. Ask questions about your baby's favourite toys or things you see on a walk. Your baby is learning how language works by listening to you.

Explore

Babies are very social! Your baby is learning how to interact and play with others. Look for resources in your community. Visit your local library, baby-parent music program, or Ontario Early Years Centre.



Baby Connections™ is a community program supporting early literacy for **babies 6 to 12 months old** in Waterloo Region. Research shows that literacy is a key determinant of health, has a great impact on academic performance, and contributes to stronger families and communities. For more information, phone 519-886-8886 ext.1315.

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