

Crawlers & Early Walkers (9–18 months)

At this stage in the child's development,
look for them to:

- Sit with help.
- Crawl and climb.
- Begin to take steps.
- Point and use words to communicate.



What you can do:

- Read simple books with simple language.
- Find books that have bright pictures.
- Play pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo and clapping games.
- Play with language; use rhyme, rhythm and repetition.
- Let baby turn the pages.
- Point to objects and talk about the pictures.
- Share Mother Goose nursery rhymes, poems and songs.

Some suggested read-alouds:

All of Baby, Nose to Toes by Victoria Adler

Barnyard Dance! by Sandra Boynton

Heads by Matthew Van Fleet

Itsy-Bitsy Babies by Margaret Wild

Look At You!: A Baby Body Book
by Margaret Wild

Max's Breakfast by Rosemary Wells

Pat-a-Cake! Nursery Rhymes by Annie Kubler

Peekaboo Morning by Rachel Isadora

Peek-a-Boo! Nursery Games by Annie Kubler

See-Saw! Nursery Songs by Annie Kubler

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes
by Mem Fox

This Little Chick by John Lawrence

Whose Knees Are These? by Jabari Asim

Whose Toes Are Those? by Jabari Asim

Board Book series: Begin Smart

All Gone! *What Does Baby Do?*
Bouncy Baby

Chicago Public Library

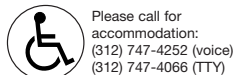
The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book and the person reading. It isn't achieved by the book alone, nor by the child alone, nor by the adult who's reading aloud – it's the relationship winding between all three, bringing them together in easy harmony.

— Mem Fox

*Reading Magic:
Why Reading Aloud to Our
Children Will Change Their
Lives Forever*



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Revised 2011

Chicago Public Library

Read Together, Read Aloud

Read-alouds for Grownups
to Share with Babies, Toddlers
and Preschoolers



Reading together and reading aloud is fun and important for young children. Hearing books read aloud gives young children a good start in building vocabulary and loving books. But how do you get started?

Here are great read-alouds for each of the ages and stages of early childhood along with strategies to make book sharing fun for everyone. So, set aside a special time each day and Read Together, Read Aloud!

Infants (0–9 months)

At this stage in an infant's development,
look for them to:

- Explore the world through their senses.
- Smile, coo and babble.
- Enjoy playing with family members.
- Recognize human faces.

What you can do:

- Cuddle the baby as you read; hearing your voice is soothing.
- Use books with bright colors and sharp contrast.
- Share books that show babies and familiar things.
- Point to and name objects.
- Use simple stories with rhyme and rhythm.
- Have the baby hold the book.

Some suggested read-alouds:

Black & White
by Tana Hoban

*Clare Beaton's Action
Rhymes* by Clare Beaton

*Clare Beaton's Nursery
Rhymes* by Clare Beaton

Daddy Hugs
by Karen Katz

The Going to Bed Book
by Sandra Boynton

Hey! Wake Up!
by Sandra Boynton

Mommy Hugs by Karen Katz

Ten Tiny Babies by Karen Katz

What Is That? by Tana Hoban

Where Is Baby's Belly Button? by Karen Katz

Where Is Baby's Yummy Tummy? by Karen Katz

Board Book series:

Amazing Baby
Baby, Boo!
Go, Baby, Go!

Begin Smart

Baby Plays Pat-Pat
My Little Baby
What Does Baby See?



Toddlers (1½ – 3 years)

At this stage in the child's development, look for them to:

- Walk alone.
- Feed and dress themselves with help.
- Want to develop independence.
- Enjoy talking with you.
- Hold a book and read aloud to you.

What you can do:

- Share nursery rhymes, poems and songs.
- Take turns pointing to and naming objects in books.
- Point to letters and their sounds.
- Choose books with simple plots and a lot of action.
- Ask questions and talk about the pictures.

Some suggested read-alouds:

Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown

Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell

A Good Day by Kevin Henkes

Good Morning, Chick by Mirra Ginsburg

Hello Baby! by Mem Fox

Hooray for Fish! by Lucy Cousins

Jump, Frog, Jump! by Robert Kalan

The Little Dump Truck by Margery Cuyler

Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney

Mama Cat Has Three Kittens by Denise Fleming

My First Mother Goose by Tomie dePaola

My First Songs by Tomie dePaola

Playtime Rhymes for Little People
by Clare Beaton

Rin, Rin, Rin-Do, Re, Mi by José-Luis Orozco

Sleepy, Oh So Sleepy by Denise Fleming

Storytime: First Tales for Sharing
by Stella Blackstone

This is the Farmer by Nancy Tafuri

Today is Monday by Eric Carle

Uh-Oh! by Rachel Isadora

Preschoolers (3 – 5 years)

At this stage in the child's development, look for them to:

- Want to know the names of objects and people.
- Love to explore the world around them.
- Have a sense of self.
- Need to socialize.
- Want to talk and have conversations.

Some suggested read-alouds:

1 2 3: A Child's First Counting Book
by Alison Jay

The Baby BeeBee Bird
by Diane Redfield Massie

Barn Dance! by Bill Martin, Jr.

Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson

Bein' with You This Way by W. Nikola-Lisa

A Birthday Basket for Tia by Pat Mora

Book! Book! Book! by Deborah Bruss

The Cow Loves Cookies by Karma Wilson

Crictor by Tomi Ungerer

Do Like a Duck Does! by Judy Hindley

Duck on a Bike by David Shannon

Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehlert

Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed
by Eileen Christelow

Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathan London

Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

What you can do:

- Introduce colors, numbers, shapes and letters with concept books.
- Choose books that emphasize the child's familiar world.
- Use picture books with longer stories.
- Select stories with rhyme, rhythm, repetition and pattern.



May I Bring a Friend?
by Beatrice Schenk de Regniers

My Lucky Day by Keiko Kasza

The Old Man and His Door by Gary Soto

One Dark Night by Lisa Wheeler

One Monday Morning by Uri Shulevitz

Pet Show! by Ezra Jack Keats

Pete's a Pizza by William Steig

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert

The Stray Dog by Marc Simont

Switching on the Moon: A Very First Book of Bedtime Poems
compiled by Jane Yolen

This is the House that Jack Built by Simms Taback

A Visitor for Bear by Bonny Becker

Waddles by David McPhail

Wild About Books by Judy Sierra

Here's A Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry
collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters

How Rocket Learned to Read by Tad Hills

I Like Me! by Nancy Carlson

King Jack and the Dragon by Peter Bently

Lola Love Stories by Anna McQuinn