



FIRST WORDS Project Infant Toddler Play Group

Session 6: Sharing Books with your Child

Children play with books in different ways. They might...

6-12 months

- ⊙ Chew them
- ⊙ Play peek-a-boo with them
- ⊙ Open and close them
- ⊙ Pull them off the shelf
- ⊙ Tear the pages
- ⊙ Look at a book with an adult for a brief time
- ⊙ Look at the pictures
- ⊙ Bang on the pages
- ⊙ Some children are not interested in books yet but they will still need the opportunity to explore them

12- 24 months

- ⊙ Enjoy reading the same story over and over again
- ⊙ Point to pictures to get you to notice them
- ⊙ Label familiar pictures
- ⊙ Turn pages
- ⊙ Sit for several minutes looking at the book
- ⊙ Pretend to read
- ⊙ Relate the picture in the book to a real object (e.g., goes to a ball after seeing it in the book)
- ⊙ Want to take books on and off the shelf
- ⊙ Enjoy a variety of interactive books (e.g., textures, flap books)

What to do...

6-12 months

- ⊙ Don't worry about reading a book word for word or from cover to cover.
- ⊙ Don't expect your child to sit long enough for you to read an entire book.
- ⊙ Talk about what you and your child are doing with the book. For example, you could say "Close" and "Open."
- ⊙ Use single words to talk about the pictures your child notices.
- ⊙ Allow your child to play with the book the way he or she wants.

12- 24 months

- ⊙ Don't worry about reading a book word for word or cover to cover.
- ⊙ Talk about what you and your child are doing, like "Turn the page," "Open," and "All done."
- ⊙ Wait to see what pictures your child notices or points to and talk about them.
- ⊙ Use short simple phrases to describe what you and your child see.
- ⊙ Let your child take a turn talking about the book.

You can also expose your child to literacy by using...

6-12 months

- ⊙ Picture boards
- ⊙ Photographs or photo albums
- ⊙ Simple designs
- ⊙ Flapbooks
- ⊙ Texture books

12- 24 months

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- ⊙ Photographs or photo albums
- ⊙ Simple designs
- ⊙ Flapbooks
- ⊙ Texture books
- ⊙ Interactive books
- ⊙ Magazine or newspaper pictures

FIRST WORDS Project

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