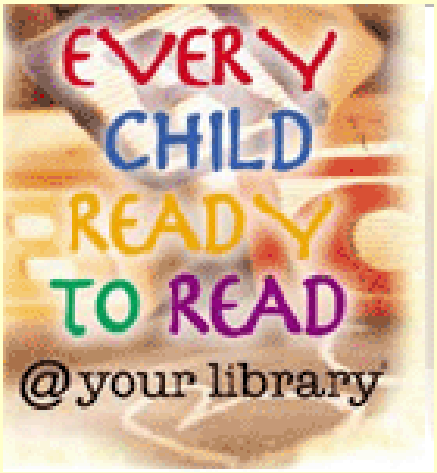

You are your child's first teacher.

EARLY TALKERS—
BIRTH TO AGE 2

What could be more exciting than hearing your baby's first word? As that first word grows into a sentence and later into conversation, you will be watching a miracle—the miracle of language development. As a parent, you are your child's first teacher. Children learn best by doing things—and they love doing things with you. Nurture your child's language skills at every age and your child will be Ready to Read!

WORDS Vocabulary

- Talk with your baby or toddler about what is going on around you. Notice what they look at, and discuss it.
- When your baby babbles or your child talks, listen carefully and answer.
- Ask your baby or toddler lots of questions.
- Share books with your baby every day. Name pictures of objects as you point to them—this helps the child learn new words.

LOVING BOOKS Print Motivation

- Begin reading books early—even when your child is a newborn.
- Make book sharing a meaningful time—make your child feel loved and special.
- Stop for awhile if your baby loses interest or gets upset. A few enjoyable minutes are better than a longer, unhappy time. Read when you and your child are relaxed and happy.
- Let your baby see you reading.
- Visit our library very often.

DID YOU KNOW…? ...That children who are read to often have larger vocabulary, higher achievement and better language skills when they enter kindergarten? The earlier a child learns pre-reading skills, the easier she will learn to read when school begins—which leads to success as a leaner and reader!

USING BOOKS Print Awareness

- Use board books or cloth books and have your child hold the book. (It's natural for babies to play with books, even chew or tear them.)
- Point to words and pictures, and use an excited voice when you talk about them.
- Read aloud every day—print labels, signs, menus. Print is everywhere!

STORYTELLING Narrative Skills

- Talking with children develops comprehension skills that will help them understand what they read.
- Tell your child stories. Talk about what you are doing, and encourage them to tell you about things. This lets your child become an active participant in the story.
- Read favorite books again and again.

SOUNDS Phonological Awareness

- Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Even make up your own silly, nonsense rhymes.
- Add actions as you sing a song or recite a poem. This helps children break down language into separate words.
- Singing songs is a good way to help your child hear syllables in words.
- Being able to hear the sounds that make up words helps children sound out written words as they begin to read.

ABCs Letter Knowledge

- Help your baby and toddler see and feel different shapes as you play. (Say, "The ball is round.")
- Read alphabet books.
- Point out letters on toys, food boxes and other objects around the house.
- Explain what is the "same" and "different" between objects.

EVERY CHILD READY TO READ @your library®

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