



You are your child's  
first teacher.

**TALKERS—2 AND 3  
YEAR OLDS**

Children learn best by doing things—and they love doing things with you. It is important at this age to continue to talk with your toddler about all of life's experiences. Share a variety of new books and old favorites with your child each day, sing songs and share rhymes as they pop into your head and be sure to speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Your toddler will store away all those new words and will start to build an amazing vocabulary. Here are ways you can help your toddler get ready to read!

### WORDS Vocabulary

- Talk with your child about what is going on around you. Talk about feelings.
- When your child talks with you, add more detail to what she says.
- Read and speak in the language most comfortable for you.
- Read together every day. Discuss the story and pictures—this helps children learn new words.

### LOVING BOOKS Print Motivation

- Make book sharing a meaningful time—make your child feel loved and special.
- Let your child see you reading.
- Visit our library often.
- Children who enjoy books will want to learn how to read!

**DID YOU KNOW...?** ...That children who are read to 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 learner and reader!

## USING BOOKS Print Awareness

- Let your child turn the pages, hold the book, and even read or tell the story.
- Point to words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Read aloud every day—print labels, signs, menus. Print is everywhere!
- Hold the book upside down; see if your child turns it around.

## STORYTELLING Narrative Skills

- Tell your child stories.
- Ask your child to tell you about something that happened today.
- Stories help children understand the concept of “order”: First, next, last.
- Read a book you’ve read before. Let your child be the reader while you listen.
- Encourage interaction—this lets your child become an active participant in the story. Do this by asking “What?” questions, repeating what your child says, and expanding on it.

## SOUNDS Phonological Awareness

- Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Even make up your own silly, nonsense rhymes.
- Play words games such as, “What sounds like ‘ran?’” or “What starts with the same sound as ‘ball?’”
- 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 toddler see different shapes, including the shapes of letters.
- Write your child’s name, especially the first letter.
- Read alphabet books with clear letters and pictures. Point out the letters in the book or on objects around the house.
- Make letters from clay or use magnetic letters.

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Every Child Ready to Read<sup>®</sup>

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