

Book Time

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Children can learn new words and concepts from pictures in books. To promote vocabulary comprehension, remember that photos are the best representation of an object; life-like pictures are second. Cartoon pictures do not give the most accurate description of an object, but will hold your child's interest. Look for books with colorful, clear pictures that are not busy. Young toddlers need to see pictures with only a few objects on a page. Don't worry about the words and sentences written in the book. You can ignore the printed material while looking at pictures and naming them. Ask your child to find an object on the page and help him/her to develop pointing skills. Here are helpful hints for book time.

Helpful Hints For Toddler Book Time.

- Let your toddler choose a book from a group of two to four.
- Board books with thick pages do not tear easily.
- Let your toddler help turn pages.
- Toddlers love books with flaps inside that can be opened to reveal a hidden picture. It is best to read these books together to avoid tearing the flaps.
- Practice finding pictures on the page. "*Where's the puppy?*" Help your child learn to point with one finger.
- As your child begins to use words, ask, "*What's this?*" "*What is he doing?*" "*Is that a duck?*"
- Children love to cuddle when reading a book. Occasionally, sit across from your child to allow face-to-face contact, while looking at the pictures. Watching a person's mouth form a word helps a toddler say the word accurately. Try sitting on the floor in front of a chair or sofa where your child is sitting to look at a book. This will put your face at the level of the book.
- Point to your mouth when you say a word in the book.
- Put together some props that go along with a storybook. If your book is about a teddy bear that eats his dinner and goes to bed, find a bear, spoon, cup, and blanket. Reenact the story with your props.