

# It's Never Too Early: Great Books to Share with Infants and Toddlers

Visit your library to look for these books.



## Reading to Babies

- Read to your baby for short periods of time, several times each day.
- Share cloth books or board books with rounded (not pointed) edges.
- Choose books with bright, colorful, uncluttered pictures.
- Hold the book so your baby can see the pictures (seven to eight inches from a newborn's face).
- Sing the songs and chant the nursery rhymes.
- Read with expression.
- Use reading time as a time to cuddle with your baby.

## Compilations for Babies *(These make great baby presents.)*

**Animal Crackers: A Delectable Collection of Pictures, Poems and Lullabies for the Very Young** by Jane Dyer | Traditional poems and lullabies are mixed with contemporary and multicultural works.

**Baby's Lap Book** by Kay Choroa | Choroa offers a rhyme collection that will provide many happy hours for babies and those who love them.

**Here Comes Mother Goose & My Very First Mother Goose** by Iona Opie | Two classic collections of nursery rhymes with wonderful oversized illustrations by Rosemary Wells make great baby gifts.

**Mary Engelbreit's Mother Goose: One Hundred Best-Loved Verses** by Mary Engelbreit | A classic collection of over 100 beloved nursery rhymes illustrated by a popular artist.

**Pio Peep!: Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes** by Alma Flor Ada | Here is a lovely bilingual collection of traditional rhymes that honors childhood and Spanish and Latin American heritage.

**This Little Piggy and Other Rhymes to Sing and Play** by Jane Yolen | Over 60 lap rhymes, clapping rhymes, finger and foot rhymes, and songs are presented with simple instructions for parents to play with their babies. An accompanying CD includes 13 songs from the text.

## Books for Babies

**American Babies** by Global Fund for Children | A board book displaying the diverse ethnic background, activities, and emotions of babies across the United States.

**Baby! Baby!** by Vicky Ceelen | A wonderful book to pour over, striking photographs catch the similarities between babies and animals.

**Baby Cakes** by Karma Wilson | A perfect book to act out at bedtime, this baby game starts with a kiss on the nose, a smooch on the toes, and a hug for good night.

**Baby Danced the Polka** by Karen Beaumont | An energetic baby jigs, polkas, and cha-chas in this rhyming story that will likely inspire imitation on the part of very young listeners.

**Baby Faces** by Margaret Miller | Babies love to look at other baby faces. These colorful photographs of various facial expressions of babies will delight youngsters. (series)

**Baby Signs** by Joy Allen | A book showing how babies can make essential signs to communicate their needs, wants, and feelings.

**Baby Talk: A Book of First Words and Phrases** by Judy Hindley | This lively rhyming tour of a young toddler's day from morning to night, with a visit to the park during the day, invites interaction.

**Baby's Day: Easy-Open Board Book** by Michael Blake | One of a series of board books depicting photos of familiar objects that small hands can easily open and turn pages.

**Beep Beep** by Petr Horáček | A family goes for a ride in their bright yellow car to Grandma's house, but the fun is with the wonderful sound words given. A companion book is *Choo Choo*.

**Black and White** by Tana Hoban | This accordion-style high contrast board book is perfect to set up in a crib for babies to look at the first few months of life.

**Bounce & Jiggle** illustrated by Sanja Rešček | One of four titles in the Baby Gym series, providing directions for parents to interact with their baby.

**Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** by Bill Martin, Jr. | This classic picture book uses rhyming questions and repetitive phrases perfect for babies through preschoolers. Both a board book and picture book format are available.

**Buenos Dias Bebé!/Good Morning, Baby!** by Libby Ellis | Familiar objects are identified in both English and Spanish in this simply illustrated board book.

**Colors** | A first color book is just one in a series of books for babies through age two. Others include *Shapes* and *Alphabet*. (Little Scholastic series)

**Duckie's Splash** by Frances Barry | A clever concept board book showing a duck meeting several other animals with a surprise pop-out ending that will delight the very young.

**Everywhere Babies** by Susan Meyers | A rhyming portrayal of multiracial babies participating in everyday activities with their families and friends.

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**Five Little Ducks** illustrated by Gabriella Buckingham | A foil-covered die-cut board book of the classic song with a surprise quacking at the end! (Little Scholastic series)

**Fuzzy Fuzzy Fuzzy!: A Touch, Skritch & Tickle Book** by Sandra Boynton | This simple board book provides a multisensory presentation of various farm animals.

**Global Babies** by Global Fund for Children | A board book displaying 17 baby faces from around the world, and also the clothing each baby wears.

**Goodnight Moon** by Margaret Wise Brown | A little rabbit bids goodnight to each familiar object in his moonlit room.

**Hush Little Baby** by Sylvia Long | A contemporary take on the classic lullaby, a mother soothes her child to sleep with the promise of such things as a quilt, a banjo tune, and the sights and sounds of nature.

**I Love You Through and Through** by Bernadette Rossetti-Shustak | Stiff pages and a padded cover make this a good choice for parents to share with babies, talking about all the ways they love their baby.

**I'm a Little Teapot** illustrated by Annie Kubler | One of several board book titles by this illustrator depicting a familiar song or rhyme.

**Look at Baby's House** by Peter Linenthal | A follow-up to *Look at the Animals*, this predominantly black-and-white contrast book is perfect for new babies.

**My Colors/Mis Colores** by Rebecca Emberley | One in a series of Spanish/English books showing one object per page that helps with early language acquisition.

**Peek-a-Baby: A Lift-the-Flap Book** by Karen Katz | One of many titles by this popular author of books with flaps that provide wonderful peek-a-boo opportunities.

**Peek-a-Moo!** by Marie Torres Cimarusti | An oversized lift-a-flap peek-a-boo book with brightly colored animals and the sounds they make.

**Peekaboo Morning** by Rachel Isadora | As an African-American toddler plays peek-a-boo, children will be able to play along.

**That's Not My Teddy...Its Paws Are Too Woolly** by Fiona Watt | Brightly colored pages with touch-and-feel surfaces is just one of many great titles in this popular series.

**Whose Toes Are Those?** by Jabari Asam | A board book to help babies identify body parts, this book focuses on a girl, while the companion book *Whose Knees Are These?* displays a boy character.

**Yellow Red Blue** by SAMi | Young babies like to focus on other baby faces, and this book of simple smiling faces with fun die-cuts and soft foam-filled pages is a great choice. (Baby Flip-a-Face series)

## Reading to Toddlers

- Share board books until books with paper pages can be shared.
- Pick texts that contain sound, recurring words, rhythm, or rhyme.
- Talk about the story or pictures and encourage your child to participate by answering simple questions, making sounds or doing motions.
- Share nursery rhymes, songs, and simple finger rhymes and repeat them. Toddlers also love to hear the same stories over and over again. The repetition helps improve children's vocabulary and memory.
- Help your child to turn the pages and select books to be read.
- Read simple, short books several times a day, due to limited attention span. Do not worry if your toddler does not want to sit still while you read.
- Pick books you like and share them enthusiastically! Use different voices and sounds.

## Compilations for Toddlers

**Diez Deditos = 10 Little Fingers & Other Play Rhymes and Action Songs from Latin America** by José-Luis Orozco | This is an inviting collection of lively finger rhymes and participatory songs from Latin America that will keep young children moving.

**Good for You!: Toddler Rhymes for Toddler Times** by Stephanie Calmenson | While they listen to the lively poems in this book about all the things they can do, toddlers can join in. They can play a game, parade with the alphabet, find their favorite colors, and much more.

**Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry** by Jane Yolen | More than 60 poems in four categories that will appeal to the very young: "Me, Myself, and I," "Who Lives in My House?," "I Go Outside," and "Time for Bed."

**Playtime Rhymes for Little People** by Clare Beaton | Hand-sewn illustrations accompany traditional children's rhymes, games, and songs in a child-pleasing collection with CD.

**Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young** by Jack Prelutsky | More than 200 short poems that cover a wide range of experiences in a young child's life, from everyday events, to special days, to the world of the imagination.

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**ABC x 3 English, Español, Français** by Marthe Jocelyn | Each letter of the alphabet is presented in text in three different languages.

**Big Fat Hen** by Keith Baker | A brilliantly colored rendition of the counting rhyme “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe.”

**Big Yellow Sunflower** by Frances Barry | Pages shaped like petals unfold one-by-one to reveal the stages in the life-cycle of a sunflower plant from seed to fully grown plant. (series)

**Busy Little Squirrel** by Nancy Tafuri | Squirrel’s animal friends invite him to join in with their games but he is too busy preparing his nest for winter (several other great titles by this author).

**Butterfly, Butterfly: A Book of Colors** by Petr Horáček | As a little girl searches for a butterfly, she meets several colorful creatures, until finally, she finds the butterfly that pops out of the final page (several other great titles by this author).

**Dear Zoo: A Lift-the-Flap Book** by Rod Campbell | A classic story of a little boy who asks the zoo for a pet and receives many different unsuitable animals before settling on a puppy.

**Do Lions Live on Lily Pads?** by Melanie Walsh | Nonsense questions about animal homes are on a perfect level of humor for toddlers. (series)

**Dog’s Colorful Day: A Messy Story About Colors and Counting** by Emma Dodd | As Dog wanders through the neighborhood, he gathers spots of different colors. A fun story to learn both colors and numbers.

**Down on the Farm** by Merrily Kutner | Toddlers can bounce along with the rhymes in this joyful barnyard romp and can also join in the repeated refrain of “Down on the Farm.”

**Ella Sarah Gets Dressed** by Margaret Chodos-Irvine | Ella Sarah has her own ideas about what she wants to wear, which are different from her family’s suggestions.

**The Everything Book** by Denise Fleming | A great gift book that introduces numbers, colors, the alphabet, body parts, classic rhymes, seasons, and other concepts.

**Eyes, Nose, Fingers and Toes: A First Book All About You** by Judy Hindley | All the many ways toddlers can enjoy movement and use their bodies.

**Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed** by Eileen Christelow | A count-down book where the little monkeys jump on the bed, only to fall off and bump their heads. (series)

**Freight Train** by Donald Crews | Clear, bright illustrations show all the cars of a train moving through day and night, country and city.

**Giant Pop-Out Shapes: A Pop-Out Surprise Book** | An interactive book with impressive pop-outs allowing children to guess what is hiding behind the flaps, including a variety of shapes and familiar objects. (series)

**A Good Day** by Kevin Henkes | A bird, dog, fox, and squirrel are all having a bad day until their luck turns around.

**Hands Can** by Cheryl Willis Hudson | Colorful photos depict all the ways toddlers can use their hands.

**He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands** by Kadir Nelson | An African-American boy with a multi-ethnic family is the star of this well-known spiritual.

**Hooray for Fish!** by Lucy Cousins | A rhyming text introduces toddlers to the similarities and differences of various types of fish.

**How Do Dinosaurs Count to Ten?** by Jane Yolen | Different types of dinosaurs help toddlers learn their numbers from one to ten. (series)

**I Like Fruit: Petite Collage** by Lorena Siminovich | Vivid colors and textures are combined to create clear pictures of a variety of fruits. Toddlers will enjoy both colors and textures found in this board book.

**If You’re Happy and You Know It!** by Jane Cabrera | The popular children’s song with child-appealing illustrations presents various animals acting out the different motions (several other great titles by this author).

**It’s Okay to Be Different** by Todd Parr | Brightly colored child-like figures celebrate diversity and the acceptance of individualism (several other great titles by this author).

**Little Quack’s New Friend** by Lauren Thompson | Little Quack and his siblings, Widdle, Waddle, Piddle, and Puddle, meet a new friend, Little Ribbit, but only Little Quack is not afraid of the creature. (series)

**Mama Cat Has Three Kittens** by Denise Fleming | Fluffy and Skinny do what Mama does all day long, but third kitten, Boris, does the opposite. Repetitious phrases will allow toddlers to join in (several other great titles by this author).

**“More, More, More” Said the Baby** by Vera Williams | Multigenerational, multiracial “love stories” about three different toddlers and their grown-ups.

**Mouse Paint** by Ellen Walsh | Three white mice discover jars of red, blue, and yellow paint and explore the world of color.

**My Big Book of Spanish Words** by Rebecca Emberley | A first dictionary of simple bilingual words introducing children to colors, numbers, animals, and much more.

**My Car** by Byron Barton | The narrator introduces his car and its many useful features, and he demonstrates how carefully he drives, stopping for pedestrians and reading signs (several other great titles by this author).

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***The Napping House*** by Audrey Wood | A rhythmic, repetitive text tells the story of a snoring granny, a dreaming child, a dozing dog, a snoozing cat, a slumbering mouse, and a disruptive, wakeful flea.

***One Blue Fish*** by Charles Reasoner | Bright graphics and shaped lift-a-flaps use pond life to teach colors and counting to young children.

***Peek-a-Zoo!*** by Marie Torres Cimarusti | Kids play peek-a-boo with different animals found at the zoo, guessing what they are, then lifting the flap to find out. (series)

***Puppies and Piggies*** by Cynthia Rylant | Various farm animals make this rhyming poem a perfect bedtime story.

***Sheep in a Jeep*** by Nancy Shaw | A playful story reveals the misadventures of a group of sheep that go riding in a jeep. (series)

***Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*** by Mem Fox | An enjoyable poem with repeated stanzas celebrating babies around the world and the fact that each has “ten little fingers and ten little toes.”

***Ten, Nine, Eight*** by Molly Bang | A little girl counts down to bedtime.

***The Three Bears*** by Bryon Barton | A simplified version of the classic tale with vibrantly colored illustrations.

***Time for Bed*** by Mem Fox | Darkness is falling everywhere and little ones are getting sleepy. It is time for a wide yawn, a big hug, and a snuggle under the covers – sleep tight!

***Tip Tip Dig Dig*** by Emma Garcia | Colorful construction vehicles are busy working and making plenty of noise while creating a wonderful playground. Also, *Toot Toot Beep Beep* and *Tap Tap Bang Bang*.

***Trucks*** by Bryon Barton | From tow trucks to cement trucks to newspaper delivery trucks in bright bold colors, this book will entrance youngsters. (series)

***The Very Busy Spider*** by Eric Carle | As a spider starts spinning her web, other animals ask if she wants to play, but she does not answer as she is too busy. A perfect book for toddlers to imitate animal sounds and the book is touchable – you can feel the web!

***Where's Spot?*** by Eric Hill | In this book the viewer is able to open doors, lift bed curtains, and pry into the cabinets to help Sally search for her puppy. (series)

***Who Hoots?*** by Katie Davis | This book becomes a guessing game of animal sounds with many silly, nonsense suggestions.

***Whose Nose and Toes?*** by John Butler | With a guessing game format, toddlers are introduced to the noses and feet of different baby animals (several other great titles by this author).

***Will Sheila Share?*** by Elivia Savadier | A toddler has a difficult time learning to share, but Nana helps her understand that not sharing can be hurtful.

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Illustration by Lindsay Barrett George

Please visit your local library to read or check-out these books. Please note that many of the authors (and series) listed above have other titles on different subjects that are also appropriate for infants and toddlers.

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