



Read with Your Baby

Act, ask, and chat to help your baby follow a picture-book story.

Helps Your Child Grow



Emergent Literacy

Your questions and playful performance invite your baby to answer a picture with a look, movement, or sound and begin connecting the image with its meaning.

Steps

- Choose a picture book with a clear theme and repeated events, then look and talk about it with your baby.
- Act out each picture with an expressive face and sound. When a snake eats an apple, for example, open your mouth and say, “Chomp! The snake is eating an apple.”
- Point to the snake and ask, “What is the snake doing?” If your baby needs a clue, repeat the eating sound and action.
- Your baby may copy the sound or pat the picture. Respond: “Yes - the snake is eating the apple.”
- On each new food page, repeat the same playful cue: “Chomp! Now it’s eating a banana.” The repeated pattern helps your baby follow the story.

Tips

- When the story ends, say softly, “The little snake is full and ready for bed. Good night!” Then give your baby a cuddle to close your reading time warmly.
- Use “Yum!” during everyday meals too: “Yum - time for cereal!” Hearing it with the action helps your baby connect the sound with eating.

Observations

- Responds to your question with a sound or movement
- Reaches out and pats a pattern that interests them