



It's Fun to Read Books Together

Read Together, Have Fun

Use sturdy interactive features such as fabric tails or flaps to make shared book time playful and responsive.

Helps Your Child Grow



Emergent Literacy

Interactive reading helps your baby become familiar with how books work, enjoy their playful features, and build an early interest in sharing books.



Relationships with Adults

Your steady attention and timely responses help your baby experience shared book time as a warm back-and-forth interaction.



What You'll Need



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1. A sturdy cloth or board book with baby-safe interactive features, such as fabric tails or flaps



Look at the Book Together

Hold up the book and gently move one sturdy feature to catch your baby's attention. Follow their gaze, point to what they notice, and name it with a short phrase.

Observations

- Looks at the picture book with you when you point to it
- Looks attentively at a book for a short period

Tips

- Offer a sturdy cloth or board book made with materials suitable for your baby to grasp and mouth.
- When your baby fixes their eyes on one picture, describe just that detail: "You found the black puppy."



Make the Characters Move

Use the book's interactive features to make a character move or make a sound. If your baby reaches toward it, pause and let them greet or explore the character in their own way.

Observations

- Puts one of the book's fabric tails in their mouth to explore it
- Uses movements or sounds to interact with you while looking at the book

Tips

- At this age, babies explore sturdy books with both hands and mouth as well as their eyes.
- Let a book character "respond" to your baby. Wiggle a fabric tail, press a sound feature, and name the action: "Shake, shake."
- When you follow your baby's interest in looking, touching, and playing, approaching a book becomes their own choice and can grow into a familiar reading routine.



Let Your Baby Explore

Give your baby unhurried time to explore the book in their own way. Stay nearby, watch their gaze and movements, and respond when they look to you.

Observations

- Pinches, pats, and explores different parts of the book
- Makes different movements and waits for your response

Tips

- Shared reading does not require finishing the story. Feeling relaxed and interested with the book is enough.
- Put your baby's action into simple words: "You're touching the book" or "That feels soft."
- Your calm presence and simple descriptions connect the sensory experience with language while keeping the exploration comfortable.
- Grasping, mouthing, and patting are all ways a baby may explore a sturdy book.