

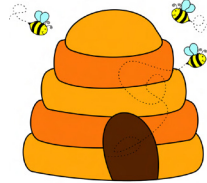
Rhymes and songs to share with your child

Young children love to be held, tickled, bounced and sung to. Try these simple but wonderful songs and rhymes as an introduction to language development. Don't worry if you can't sing on key –your baby won't mind. He or she will love just being with you.

Don't forget to check out *Karen's Corner* on our website for more rhymes and songs.

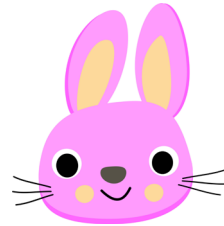
The Beehive

Here is the beehive. *(Hold up fist)*
Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Watch as they come out of the hive –
One, two, three, four, five. *(Extend each finger as you count)*
They're alive! BZZZ! *(Make buzzing sounds and tickle your child)*



Sleeping Bunnies

(Children lie down on the floor, pretending to sleep)
See the little bunnies, sleeping until noon.
Can we wake them with a merry tune?
Oh, so still ... are they ill?
Wake up sleeping bunnies, hop, hop, hop!
(Stand up and jump up and down until the end of the song when "stop" is sung)
Wake up sleeping bunnies, hop, hop, hop!
Wake up sleeping bunnies, hop and stop!



Round and Round the Garden

(Circle your child's palm with your finger while you sing the song)
Round and round the garden
Like a teddy bear.
(Walk your fingers up child's arm)
One step, two step
Tickle you under there.
Round and round the garden
In the wind and rain.
One step, two step,
Tickle you once again.



Reading begins at home!

Research shows that reading even one book a day can make an enormous impact on a child's readiness to learn to read. Exposure to books, songs and rhymes is essential for a young child's growing brain.

Here are 5 simple, but powerful, ways that parents and caregivers can help young children get ready for reading. You can make these practices part of your everyday activities to help young children learn early literacy skills.

Talking

Talking with young children helps them to develop pre-literacy skills. Encourage your child to retell stories which will help them understand story structure. Conversations with young children help them to express themselves, understand the world around them, and learn new vocabulary.

Singing

Singing slows down language and stresses the difference between syllables and intonation. This helps young children hear the smaller sounds in words which will later help them sound out words as they learn to read.

Reading

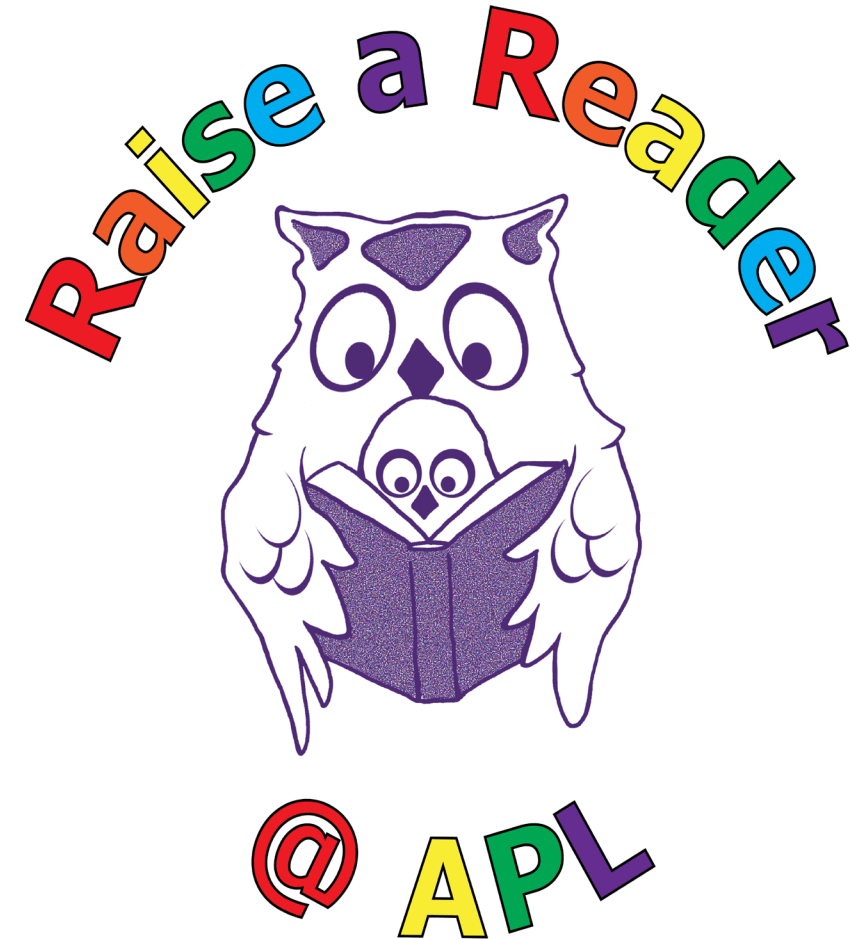
Reading to young children builds their vocabulary skills, allows them to develop letter awareness, and teaches them to enjoy reading and love books. It is a wonderful way to bond with your baby or young child.

Writing

Writing can be anything from drawing and scribbling to practising the shapes that make up the alphabet, and it is a great way to build fine motor skills. Children will grow to learn, and understand, that written words represent ideas, objects, places, and events.

Playing

Imaginative play is a key component of brain development and language acquisition. Play is not only fun, but is how children learn and understand new concepts, ideas and the world around them.



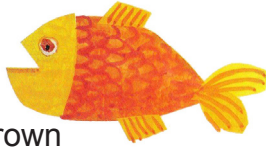
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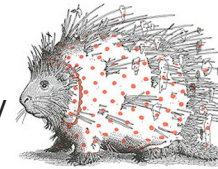
25 great books to share with your baby

- *Birds* by Kevin Henkes
- *Black on White* by Tana Hoban
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.
- *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell
- *Freight Train* by Donald Crews
- *A Good Day* by Kevin Henkes
- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Good Night, Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann
- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney
- *Hamsters Holding Hands* by Kass Reich
- *Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb* by Al Perkins
- *Hug* by Jez Alborough
- *Kisses Kisses Baby-O!* by Sheree Fitch
- *Night Cars* by Teddy Jam
- *Nighty-Night: A Bedtime Song for Babies* by Richard Van Camp
- *Orange Pear Apple Bear* by Emily Gravett
- *Peek-a-Zoo!* by Marie Torres Cimarusti
- *Peepo!* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- *Read Me a Book* by Barbara Reid
- *Read to Your Bunny* by Rosemary Wells
- *Ten Tiny Babies* by Karen Katz
- *Tickle Time!* by Sandra Boynton
- *Time for Bed* by Mem Fox
- *The Ways I Will Love You* by Rachel Boehm
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle



25 great books to share with your toddler

- *Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing* by Judi Barrett
- *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman
- *Bubblegum Delicious: Poems* by Dennis Lee
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault
- *Curious George* by Margret and H.A. Rey
- *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle
- *Go Away, Big Green Monster!* by Ed Emberley
- *Goodnight, Sweet Pig* by Linda Bailey
- *Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard
- *How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?* by Jane Yolen
- *I'll Teach My Dog 100 Words* by Michael K. Frith
- *In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming
- *Kitten's First Full Moon* by Kevin Henkes
- *Little Gorilla* by Ruth Bornstein
- *Maisy Goes to the Library* by Lucy Cousins
- *Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joosse
- *Mr. Gumpy's Outing* by John Burningham
- *My Happy Book* by Kathy Knowles
- *No, David!* by David Shannon
- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- *Red is Best* by Kathy Stinson
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni
- *Where's Spot?* by Eric Hill
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak



25 great books to share with your preschooler

- *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins
- *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson
- *Chester* by Mélanie Watt
- *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems
- *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker
- *Good Night Sam* by Marie-Louise Gay
- *I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean* by Kevin Sherry
- *I Want My Hat Back* by Jon Klassen
- *Little Beauty* by Anthony Brown
- *The Little Hummingbird* by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas
- *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers
- *The Mitten: A Ukrainian Folk Tale* by Jan Brett
- *Monkey and Me* by Emily Gravett
- *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis
- *On My Walk* by Kari-Lynn Winters
- *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch
- *I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin
- *Picture a Tree* by Barbara Reid
- *Pussycat, Pussycat, Where Have You Been?* by Dan Bar-el
- *Singing Away the Dark* by Caroline Woodward
- *Spork* by Kyo Maclear
- *There's an Alligator Under My Bed* by Mercer Mayer
- *The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland
- *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen
- *Where's Walrus?* by Stephen Savage

