

## Early Literacy Developmental Skills

From birth, your child is developing early literacy skills. Here is a guide of skills for each age level and suggestions to promote your child's early literacy development.

**REMEMBER**, all children are unique and develop skills at different times.

Age Group	Early Literacy Developmental Skills	What Can You Do To Help
<b>Infant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looks intensely at pictures for several minutes</li> <li>• Reaches for and explores books with hands and mouth</li> <li>• Uses both hands to manipulate the book to make the pages open and close</li> <li>• Holds book with help</li> <li>• Tries to turn several pages at a time</li> <li>• Looks at pictures, vocalizes and pats picture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer your baby cloth books or rubber books. Let the baby touch, feel and chew!</li> <li>• Point out the pictures and name the objects</li> <li>• Babies like books with large photos of people's faces</li> <li>• Play social games with your baby (e.g., peek a boo)</li> </ul>
<b>Toddler</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to carry book and turn pages well</li> <li>• Labels a particular picture with a specific sound</li> <li>• Enjoys being read to and enjoys looking at books</li> <li>• Asks for favourite books to be read over and over again</li> <li>• Pretends to read</li> <li>• Names familiar pictures</li> <li>• Relates events in books to his/her own past experiences</li> <li>• Can join in and recite phrases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask child to identify pictures in a book (e.g., Show me the baby)</li> <li>• Ask child to help you turn the pages</li> <li>• Share books about concepts such as up and down, in and out, big and little and so on...</li> <li>• Repeating favourite books, games and songs helps build literacy skills</li> </ul>
<b>Preschooler</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes familiar logos and signs (e.g., stop sign)</li> <li>• Remembers and understands familiar stories</li> <li>• Knows how to use a book (holds/turns pages one at a time, starts at beginning, points/talks about pictures)</li> <li>• Looks carefully and makes comments about books</li> <li>• Fills in missing words/phrases in familiar books</li> <li>• Talks about past events</li> <li>• Tells simple stories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for books that appeal to their interest</li> <li>• Talk about what is happening and have your child tell you about the story</li> <li>• Ask questions about a book as you read it-"What will happen next? Why is the boy smiling?"</li> <li>• Read regularly to your child. This is one of the best ways to ensure future reading and writing success.</li> </ul>

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