

15 Tips for Sharing Books with Children Ages Two to Three

- 1 Continue to use board books (heavy cardboard pages) with rounded edges until your child is able to carefully handle books with paper pages.
- 2 Select books with bright colors and subjects familiar to your child's world, such as families or animals; typical activities, such as dressing or feeding oneself; and basic concepts, such as colors, ABCs, or counting (not to teach these skills, rather just for enjoyment).
- 3 Pick books that contain only one or two sentences per page for two-year-olds. As you continue to read to your child regularly, you can begin to read longer texts.
- 4 Pick story books that contain sounds, recurring words, rhythm, or rhymes that allow your child to participate.
- 5 Share books that allow for sensory experiences (flaps to raise, surfaces to touch), such as peekaboo books or pop-up books.
- 6 Share books that show children of varying ages and different ethnic backgrounds.
- 7 Encourage your child to participate by talking, making sounds, or doing motions.
- 8 Ask simple questions so your child can participate in the storytelling, such as "What animal is this?" "What color is the frog?" Or help your child develop predictive skills by asking, "What do you think will happen next?" or by showing the cover of a book and asking, "What do you think this book is about?"

- 9 Continue to share nursery rhymes and songbooks with your child. Both are important for language development and also for phonological awareness, a skill children need to have to learn to read.
- 10 Have your child help turn the pages of books and occasionally point to repeated words to help her begin to identify simple words.
- 11 Allow your child to select books to be read.
- 12 Read books at different times throughout the day. If your child has a limited attention span, try again later.
- 13 Read with expression, using different voices and vocalizing sounds to keep your child's interest and to make the book come alive.
- 14 Do not be afraid to read favorite books numerous times. Children love repetition, and when a book becomes familiar, they will join in "reading."
- 15 Pick books you like and share them enthusiastically. Your child will ask for more!