

# Why Share Books with Babies and Young Toddlers?

## 10 Powerful Reasons

- 1 Reading provides an opportunity for a parent and child to spend time together and bond in a positive way.
- 2 Babies can recognize their parents' voices from birth. They feel a sense of security hearing the parent speaking to them and sharing familiar books they heard while in the womb.
- 3 Reading to a child nurtures a love for books and reading.
- 4 Reading introduces the book as an object and familiarizes children with the conventions of print.
- 5 Reading offers rich language experiences. Children who have been spoken to and read to during the first two years of life have larger vocabularies than children who have not been so fortunate.
- 6 Reading books introduces children to fine arts through the variety of media and styles used in illustrations.
- 7 Reading to children stimulates their brain development and increases their attention span.
- 8 Sharing books with flaps, textures, or other interactivity provides sensory experiences, which create brain connections, increasing intelligence.
- 9 When children are read to, they develop a larger vocabulary of understood words, because books expose them to the rare or unfamiliar words used less often in everyday speech.
- 10 Early literacy experiences with books are linked to a child's later success in learning to read.