

Early Literacy is:

everything children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Early literacy starts at birth.

What can you do?

- * Talk with your baby as you play and do daily activities together.
- * Name objects.
- * Discuss sounds you hear.
- * Listen to and respond to your baby's babbling as if you are having a conversation.
- * Recite nursery rhymes during every day activities.
- * Read together every day.
- * Sing songs to your child.
- * Cuddle and play with your baby.

Why is this important?

When you read, talk, and play – you are stimulating the growth of a child's brain, building the connections that will become the building blocks for reading and learning.

Nursery Rhyme ideas:

Pat-a-cake — eating
Little Bo Peep — looking for a lost toy
Rub-a-Dub Dub and *One Two Three Four Five* — bathing
One Two, Buckle My Shoe — dressing
Rain, Rain, Go Away and *Eensy Weensy Spider* — for a rainy day
There Was a Crooked Man and *Ride a Cockhorse* — on a walk
Twinkle, Twinkle and *Hey Diddle, Diddle* — looking at the stars
Wee Willie Winkie — bedtime

Song ideas

Mary Had a Little Lamb
Hush Little Baby
Down by the Station
This Old Man
Baa Baa Black Sheep



When you are reading:

- * Having fun while reading sends a great message about books.
- * Cuddle with your baby as you read; if your baby crawls away, keep reading. They are still listening and learning.
- * Point to pictures in books and name them.
- * Read books with rhyming words.
- * Ask questions about what is happening in the story and then tell your baby the answer.
- * Let your baby hold a board book.

Take a book with you wherever you go with your child. You will have time to read while waiting in the doctor's office, pushing your child through the grocery store, taking a break at the mall, or having your oil changed.





Song books and music to Share with your baby:

| Call Number | Title |
|-------------|--|
| EPB Hickory | <i>Hickory, Dickory, Dock</i> |
| EPB Hurwitz | <i>Nursery Rhyme Jazz</i> (book with CD) |
| E Long | <i>Hush Little Baby</i> |
| E Raffi | <i>Five Little Ducks</i> |
| ZM Beall | <i>Wee Sing for Baby</i> |
| ZM Diaper | <i>Diaper Gym: Fun Activities for Babies on the Move</i> |
| ZM Raffi | <i>Singable Songs for the Very Young</i> |
| ZM Sharon | <i>Mainly Mother Goose</i> |
| ZM Stewart | <i>Baby Face</i> |

Books to Share with your baby:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| EPB B | <i>Goodnight Moon</i> |
| EPB C | <i>Find the Puppy</i> |
| EPB H | <i>Choo Choo</i> |
| EPB H | <i>Black on White</i> |
| EPB H | <i>Nursery Rhyme Jazz</i> (book with CD) |
| EPB M | <i>Baby Faces</i> |
| EPB S | <i>Baby Says</i> |
| | <i>Peekaboo!</i> |
| EPB T | <i>Touch and Feel</i> |
| | <i>Wild Animals</i> |
| E Baker | <i>Big Fat Hen</i> |
| E Gentieu | <i>Baby! Talk!</i> |
| E Hill | <i>Where's Spot</i> |
| E Tafuri | <i>Spots, Feathers, and Curly Tails</i> |



It's Not Too Early to Start Reading to Your Baby



Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
Youth Services 837-3466

