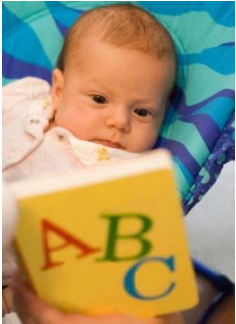


# Literacy Tips For Parents

*"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."*

Emilie Buchwald

## When To Start?



It is never too early to introduce a child to books. Tiny babies enjoy the movement of the pages turning, the noise of the paper and the sound of your voice as you talk or read. At first, babies see the pictures simply as colors, shapes and patterns. Gradually shapes become familiar and recognizable. Babies start to associate specific sounds with each shape. Then they learn to turn the pages by themselves, to point to things and name them. Soon they will be talking about the pictures they see and then following a sequence of pictures through a book and listening to the words.

- **Cuddling, patting and rocking build a foundation for learning and helps your baby's brain develop.**
- **Talk to your baby from birth. Listen to his babbles and coos. Smile! Baby loves to see your face.**
- **Carry on a "conversation" by imitating your baby's sounds. Notice how she listens and responds.**
- **Play pat-a-cake and peek-a-boo. Emphasize vowel sounds 'ah', 'oo' and 'ee'. Simple games promote cognitive growth by making and strengthening brain cell connections.**
- **Singing introduces sounds & words and stimulates bonding. Don't worry, your baby is not a critic.**
- **Show items to baby and identify them. This teaches baby that everything has a name.**

## Literacy Begins With Play

**Play** is a safe environment for your child to explore literacy. Every word your child hears and repeats, every storybook, song and nursery rhyme become the building blocks of literacy. Through **play**, your child can feel like a reader even before he knows how to read.

When your child draws, pretends to read or invents stories, **play** allows him to build his literacy skills by experimenting with pictures and symbols he has seen. Eventually she will make the connection between these **play** experiences and the activities of reading and writing.