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## Reading

Choose a book YOU enjoy and read it to your child. They'll pick up on your feelings about reading it.

> Ask "what do you think will happen next?" before turning the page in

> > a book.

Let your child choose their favorite book and read it as manu times as they want. Repetition is key to learning at this age!

Declare a letter of the day and point out things that start with that letter.

Read print everywhere you go. Print on a cereal box or a road sign can show your child that words have meaning outside of the context of books.

Read a nonfiction board book to your baby so they can attach words to everyday objects. Try to find one of those objects in your house!

Share a board l ook at a book with your newspaper. baby and allow magazine, or book them to turn the and see how manu pages. numbers you can

find.

Share your favorite book with your child and tell them what you like about it. Ask about their favorite books.

Allow your baby to pick up finger foods and other small objects using thumb and forefinger to practice precise hand movements.

> Use shaving cream or finger paint for your child to trace and make letters. Focus on the letters In their name.

Scribbling and finger painting help develop fine motor skills. Try chunky crayons - they're perfect

letter

Sing the

with your

child.

dance party! Clap.

sing, and dance

along with the

music.

Writing

build dexterity used for for babies' fingers to grasp! Have your child practice tracing

around shapes. Can covers, cookie cutters, blocks, etc. work well.

Send a card to a friend or familu Make an alphabet member by writing book. Cut out pictures down what your child from food boxes and would like to sau. magazines for each

Sing "Itsy Bitsy Spider'

and show your baby

how to do the finger

movements. This helps

writina!

Write a short story

with your child and

have them be the

illustrator

## Bonus tank

Attend a story time or other library program

> Read to your child for 15 minutes.

Activities in lighter color bubbles are great for babies. Activities in darker color bubbles are great for toddlers and preschoolers. But feel free to do any activity with any age child!

Playing

Go to the park or

anywhere outside - it's

your baby to learn

about the outside

world.

Have your child

jump the ABCs -

one jump for each

them together!

talking

Respond to your

babbling baby. This

will teach them how

conversations work

noises!

Play with words

and rhumes bu

playing "I Spy" as you

wait somewhere or

when driving.

Play little games to build vocabulary. Ask your baby to point out body parts.

Chat with your child about the first letter of their first name. Then try to find other words that start with that

letter.

Have your child help retell a familiar picture book or fairy tale.

Talk with your baby about what you are doing throughout the day to develop and encourage their vocabulary.

> Read a book about animals. Talk about the sounds each animal makes and try to have your baby repeat them.

Before you begin a book, look at the cover and predict what it is about. Ask questions as you read.

Singing

Sing a song as part of a bedtime routine. It helps signal that it's time to sleep.

Make up a tune to your everyday tasks. Use "If You're Happy and You Know It" when washing dishes or cleaning. Have your child chime in.

Introduce simple instruments, such as alphabet song a shaker or wooden spoon, to follow the beat in songs.

Recite a nurseru

rhyme together and add some actions.

Try clapping or dancing to the beat of a favorite song. Song rhythms can help your child learn that words are made up of syllables.

Try using a scarf or washcloth to play peeka-boo with your baby to help them learn cause and effect. Have a family

> Let your baby play with different kinds of books: board books, touch and feel books. and lift the flap

books. Use a large empty box as a playhouse to act out a story or play! This helps build vocabulary and storytelling skills.

Blow bubbles with your baby. Babies follow the a great opportunity for movement of the bubbles. which helps with eye tracking.

> Blow bubbles with your child - it's fun, and popping them letter as you recite helps with hand-eye coordination.

> > Read a story featuring an animal and pretend to be that animal by walking, talking, and eating like it does.