

Fostering a Love of Reading...

Who can foster a love of reading?

Fostering a love of reading starts at home first. Here are some suggestions from the Fisher Price company;

Here are some tips for reading to your child:

Birth to 1 year:

- In the early months, hold your baby close and read, talk and sing to her.
- By 3-6 months of age, your baby will start to enjoy looking at mirrors and pictures of faces, shapes, colors. She will begin to make sounds, reach out and touch the pictures. Choose books with interesting pictures and textures.
- By 6-12 months of age, your baby will sit in your lap, look at the pictures, touch the book, and put the book in her mouth. Use plastic and cardboard books, and point to and name the pictures for your baby.

1-2 years:

- From 12-18 months of age, your baby might enjoy choosing the book from the shelf, sitting and holding the book, and turning the pages. Follow your child's interest in reading for as long as the book holds his attention. Ask "Where's the doggie?" and let your child point to it. Ask "What does the doggie say?" and let your child respond.
- From 18-24 months of age, your child might begin to name familiar pictures and fill in words in familiar stories. She might even "read" to her dolls or stuffed animals and recite parts of stories. When you read, stop to ask your child, "What's that?" and give your child time to answer.

2-3 years:

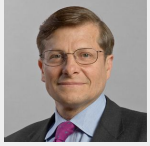
- Your child will be able to handle books with paper pages. She understands how the pictures go with the story, and may look for her favorite books and favorite pictures. Be prepared to read the same book over and over. Ask her questions about what's happening in the book, and relate the story to her own experiences, "That truck looks just like the garbage truck that comes to our house!" Try dropping some words from the end of a rhyme and let her fill in the missing word.

3 years and up:

- Your child will be able to turn pages one at a time. He can listen to longer stories and retell familiar stories in his own words. He will also start to recognize letters and numbers. Ask him questions, "How many balls are there? Let's count them!" "What's happening now? What's going to happen?" Look for books that teach children helpful lessons for making friends, going to school, etc. Encourage him to tell, draw and write his own stories.

Should I read to my baby before it is born?

Many professionals say 'YES'.



[Dr. Michael Roizen, MD](#)

Internal Medicine

The womb isn't some noise-free vacuum. That's why so many moms read aloud to their child even before that first night in the crib. I strongly endorse that practice, too - not just for brain development, but also to allow your baby to hear your voice and establish an auditory bond at an early age. I also encourage you to listen to all kinds of music because music will help stimulate his senses and improve his brain development. During and after pregnancy, you want to expose your child to as much pleasant stimulation as you can - in all kinds of settings. Exposure to different sounds and scenes is essentially what helps those neural connections get established.

Next....

Who else can foster the love of reading? Teachers, Librarians, movies, internet and etc.....?