



# Early Literacy Milestones

	Your Child's Milestones:	What You Can Do:	Books to Try:
3-12 Months	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaches for books</li> <li>• May try to turn pages</li> <li>• Puts books in mouth</li> <li>• Loves pictures of faces and simple, familiar images</li> <li>• Sits in your lap, head steady</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find a quiet place to read</li> <li>• Follow baby's cues for "more" and "stop"</li> <li>• Point and name pictures</li> <li>• Allow baby to play with books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Clap Hands</i>, Helen Oxenbury</li> <li>• <i>Global Babies</i>, Global Fund for Children</li> <li>• <i>I Like Vegetables: a touch-and-feel board book</i>, Lorena Siminovich</li> <li>• <i>White on Black</i>, Tana Hoban</li> </ul>
12-18 Months	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sits without support</li> <li>• Holds book with help</li> <li>• Turns board pages</li> <li>• Points at pictures with one finger</li> <li>• May identify pictures when you ask "Where's the...?"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to child's non-verbal requests to read (handing you a book)</li> <li>• Be patient with child's short attention span—read for short periods of time</li> <li>• Ask questions about books and name the pictures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Counting Kisses</i>, Karen Katz</li> <li>• <i>Goodnight Moon</i>, Margaret Wise Brown</li> <li>• <i>Peek-a-Who</i>, Nina Laden</li> <li>• <i>This Little Chick</i>, John Lawrence</li> <li>• <i>Where's Spot</i>, Eric Hill</li> </ul>
18-24 Months	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turns board pages easily, one at a time</li> <li>• Names familiar pictures</li> <li>• Fills in words in familiar stories</li> <li>• Attention span may be short or long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relate books to child's life</li> <li>• Use books in routines, such as bedtime</li> <li>• Ask "what's that?" and give child time to answer</li> <li>• Pause and let child complete the sentence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Are You a Cow?</i> Sandra Boynton</li> <li>• <i>Freight Train</i>, Donald Crews</li> <li>• <i>I Went Walking</i>, Sue Williams</li> <li>• <i>Where is the Green Sheep?</i>, Mem Fox and Judy Horacek</li> <li>• <i>You are My I Love You</i>, Maryann K. Cusimano</li> </ul>
24-36 Months	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flips back and forth to find favorite pages in books</li> <li>• Recites whole phrases</li> <li>• Understands text and pictures are connected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read favorite stories over and over</li> <li>• Ask "what's happening?"</li> <li>• Provide crayons and paper for scribbling and drawing</li> <li>• Have fun! Make different voices together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?</i>, Jane Yolen</li> <li>• <i>I Ain't Gonna Paint No More</i>, Karen Beaumont</li> <li>• <i>Little Blue Truck</i>, Alice Schertle</li> <li>• <i>Ten, Nine, Eight</i>, Molly Bang</li> </ul>
3 Years and Up	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turns paper pages one at a time</li> <li>• Listens to longer stories</li> <li>• Retells familiar stories</li> <li>• Moves finger along text</li> <li>• Starts to recognize letters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let child tell the story in her words</li> <li>• Ask "what's happening?"</li> <li>• Let child choose the book</li> <li>• Encourage writing and drawing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i>, Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault</li> <li>• <i>Llama Llama Red Pajama</i>, Anna Dewdney</li> <li>• <i>My Very First Mother Goose</i>, edited by Iona Opie</li> <li>• <i>Press Here</i>, Hervé Tullet</li> </ul>