



# Language and Literacy at Home

## Infants (Birth - 15 months)

### How Children Learn

Infants are learning how to communicate and make themselves understood through sounds and gestures and, later, through words. Connections to and relationships with trusted adults are vital to an infant's language and literacy development.

### Activities & Experiences

Read books aloud and provide sturdy books with colorful pictures and images of real people for children to "read" on their own.

Notice and talk about the everyday sounds that you hear around you.

Sing songs with familiar tunes and rhymes.

Use a puppet or stuffed animal to engage infants in simple conversation and model back-and-forth interactions.

Play back-and-forth games like handing each other a soft ball to practice for future conversation.

### How can we support exploration and social-emotional learning?

- Talk about everything you do, and pause for your child to respond with a coo, gesture, or word(s).
- Model how to read a book (i.e. turn the pages, point to pictures and words, comment and pose questions).
- Use different modes of communication to convey your message (i.e. body language, tone of voice, hand gestures, etc.).

I'm taking the book off of the bookshelf!

Let's see what happens to the horse! [pointing to picture in book]

Hi, Sarah! [smiling, waving and using a friendly voice]