

# Raising Readers: Parent Tips for Reading Readiness (Birth to Preschool)

MPC-57



## Birth through age 2

**Talk and sing to your child from birth.** The sound of your voice is soothing to your baby in many ways. Recite rhymes, songs, and repetitive words and phrases.

**Let your baby know that you hear her babbles, coos, and gurgles.** When your baby makes sounds to you, smile and repeat the sounds that she is making.

**Play simple touching and talking games together.** These games help a child learn what different parts of the body are called.

**Talk to your baby about what you are doing.** Repeating the name of an activity over and over helps your child connect the words to the meaning.

**As your child learns to talk, build his language.** Children learn to talk by using single words and short sentences. Help him learn to talk by using complete sentences.



**Make reading fun!** Show enthusiasm as you read to your child. Change your voice as you read and bring the characters “alive” for your child. This will help your child learn to love books and be excited about learning to read themselves.

**Read to your child often.** Set aside special time each day to read with each other. Even a short time of 5 to 10 minutes is enough. While you are reading, comment on what is happening in the story. Help your child learn to “read” using the pictures.

**Children love repetition and often want to read the same book over and over.** Reading the same book over and over helps them learn to read by hearing and seeing the same words in print many times.

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The Minnesota Parent Center provides free training, individual assistance, and information to families and professionals in Minnesota.

Minnesota Parent Center is a project of PACER Center, Inc.

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## Ages 3 and 4

**Talk about what you are doing.** There are many daily opportunities to share with your child. When you're at the grocery store, talk about why you select the fruit you do and how you cook dinner, etc.

**Provide new places and experiences to your child.** Talk about what you see and do there.

**Teach your child the meaning of new words.** Say the names of things around the house and talk about the things in pictures. When using something, explain, in simple ways, how to use familiar objects and how they work.

**Help you child follow directions.** Give directions in short, clear sentences.

**Play with words.** Have fun with tongue twisters such as "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" and nonsense rhymes such as "Hey Diddle, Diddle," as well as more modern nonsense rhymes from Dr. Seuss.

**Continue reading to your child.** You have given your child a love of reading—continue to build upon that.

**Reading favorites over and over.** Your child will begin to recognize print and realize what makes up words.



**When reading rhyming stories, stop periodically and see if your child can fill in the missing rhyming word.** Ask your child to point to things that are in the pictures. Or you can point to the object and ask what it is.

**Have your child "read" to you.** Children love to tell stories by reading pictures. Compliment your child when they remember the story.

**Ask your child the favorite parts of the book.** Help him make up new endings to the stories.

**Provide lots of books for your child to choose from.** You can buy books at garage sales, library used book sales, etc. Ask that people give your child books as gifts. Get a library card for your child and then check out library books together.

### Source:

National Institute for Literacy  
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
U.S. Department of Education  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
**September 2002**