

the early years

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a newsletter for parents and caregivers of children birth to 4

LIBRARIES GROW READERS!



0 to 1
YEARS

This issue is brought to you by your Eastern Shore Regional Library. Please register your child for a library card and bring him to the library at least once every three weeks. Help your child learn that a library is a fun and exciting place to visit! (All of the photos on this page were taken in the Wicomico County Library Birth to Four area.)

Even young infants can enjoy looking at the pictures in a book. Reading a book together begins a tradition of one-on-one quality time. Sitting together and sharing will develop an emotional bond between you and your baby. Look at books with large pictures, lots of colors, and few or no words. Name the animals or the biggest thing on the page. (Remember...attention spans are very short!) Tasting is also a way that a baby learns, so they may want to chew on the book! Your baby will read your body language more than understand the words you say. So make this a warm, cozy special time together.



1 to 2
YEARS

Sitting together and reading is always a positive activity to share. Your baby will begin to choose the stories that they like the best. Be prepared to read that special book over and over...and over!

Remember that a baby who is read to at least three times a week will begin school more prepared. You can find lots of books for babies at the library. Sign up your little one for a library card, and start a habit that lasts a lifetime.

Singing or reading nursery rhymes or poems (see page 3) are great ways to share language. Playing simple games such as hiding an object under a blanket, or peek-a-boo are fun for both of you.



2 to 3
YEARS

Your toddler will be more interested in the pictures that are on the pages of a book...especially when they are things they recognize. You might like to look for books with drawings of trucks and cars and animals and children. Visits to the zoo can be enhanced by a book that shows the animals that they just saw in real life.

Scribbling on paper with crayons or non-toxic markers is your child's first introduction to writing. Give them nice big pieces of paper to work with, and let them play in a place you can easily clean! Remember, they can't tell the difference between the OK piece of paper and the OHNO! carpet! Keep an eye on them while they work.



3 to 4
YEARS

For your 3 to 4 year old, puppets are a fun way to introduce another aspect of language development. Simple puppets made out of those odd socks that you find at the bottom of the dryer are perfect! Just draw a face on with a marker, or sew buttons on for eyes. You and your child can make up your own stories or read a story that you know and act it out with the puppets.

Making music together with homemade instruments will satisfy your child's need to communicate. Oatmeal boxes filled with dry rice or dry beans and taped shut are great for a rattling noise. Decorate the sides, hand your child two spoons and now you have a drum! Encourage dancing and moving to the music...it is great exercise for both of you. And of course, you can turn on the radio and boogie!