

I Taught My Child Today... by reading a book together.



Ideas to Promote Emerging Literacy

- Touching is important. Put your arms around your little one as you sit together. This may be the best part of the story!
- Set aside some time each day to read to your child.
- Select simple books with simple, colorful pictures. Say the names of the pictures as you and your baby point to them.
- Touch books with textured fabrics are enjoyed by infants and toddlers. Make a home-made “feel” book for your child.
- Choose books about people, animals, objects that toddlers are familiar with.
- Choose stories with repetition, interesting sounds and words that rhyme.
- Change the pitch of your voice, especially as you pretend to be different characters in the story. Make the story come alive. You can even sing the words.

As your baby begins to look and recognize pictures in picture books, s/he is beginning to develop early literacy skills that eventually lead to language, reading and writing development. These skills are all linked and develop at the same time. Your baby will associate books and stories with positive feelings of fun and comfort. This develops in real life settings through the enjoyment of books, positive interactions and literacy experiences. As you read or share stories, you are your child’s first teacher.

Resources: www.zerotothree.org

Infancy Leadership Circle/Erie:
A Project of New York Zero-to-Three Network—Raising Voices For Babies