

Reading Starts from Zero Years Old

Neuroscience research indicates that the human brain does not possess an innate reading center and cannot learn to read autonomously. It requires gradual learning through the guidance and companionship of adults. **Early parental involvement in infants' and toddlers' reading activities contributes to the positive development of their brains** and fosters a strong parent-child bond. Dear parents, please set aside your electronic devices, pick up a picture book, and relish the experience of reading with your precious child.

~How to Set Up a Designated Reading Corner at Home~

Find a place where you and your child often spend time, such as a small corner in the living room.



Use open shelving to display picture books with their covers facing outward to attract your child's attention.



Complement regular picture books with audio books, songs, etc.

Provide comfortable seating options like soft mats, carpets, small chairs, etc., for your child.



Choose picture books that are safe and well-bound; ensure the content of the picture books is accurate and free from stereotypes.



For older children, you can prepare a desk, chairs, desk lamp, paper, or pens, to allow your child to doodle freely.



The website of the Ministry of Education's Infant and Toddler Reading Promotion Program provides information on how to obtain reading gift bags in various counties and cities, addresses of libraries' infant and toddler reading sections, book recommendations, expert columns, etc. It provides parents with the most comprehensive support for engaging in shared reading with their children.



About the program

Three Core Concepts:

- ♥ Early reading, beginning with literacy
- ♥ Ensuring equal access to the joy of reading for every child
- ♥ Enriching family life through the power of reading

Target participants:

Infants and toddlers aged 0-5 and their parents



Program Content:



- ♥ The Ministry of Education subsidizes various counties and cities to organize and promote infant and toddler reading activities. This includes distributing reading gift bags, encouraging public libraries to enhance their collections for infants and toddlers and establishing designated areas for infant and toddler reading.

- ♥ The National Taiwan Library (hereinafter referred to as "NTL") convenes a selection committee annually to identify and select outstanding books suitable for infants and toddlers.



- ♥ NTL provides guidance to public libraries nationwide and conducts professional training for librarians specializing in infant and toddler reading.

- ♥ The Ministry of Education and NTL coordinate with public libraries nationwide, collaborate with other government departments and engage in interdisciplinary cooperation with civil organizations to jointly promote infant and toddler reading.



Infant and Toddler Reading Promotion Program by the Ministry of Education

Guidelines for 0-5 Year Old Infants and Toddler Parent-child Shared Reading



指導單位：



承辦單位：

國立臺灣圖書館
National Taiwan Library

Characteristics of Child Development

0-6 months

- Long sleep duration
- Blurry vision, but can track objects
- Enjoys gazing at faces
- Sensitive to auditory and tactile stimuli



6-12 months

- Gradually able to sit steadily and begin crawling
- Enjoys grasping objects such as holding books and turning pages
- Puts obtained objects into the mouth
- Notices patterns in books and taps them with hands
- Can distinguish different sounds



1-2 years old

- Begins to speak
- Can stand and walk
- Short attention span, easily distracted
- Able to pick up and flip through books independently

2-3 years old

- Vocabulary and sentence structures increase
- Likes to ask "What is this/that?"
- Understands simple cause and effect relationships
- Repeatedly reads the same book

3-5 years old

- Strong ability to imitate
- Rich imagination
- Has basic logical reasoning ability
- Fluent in language expression



Appropriate Reading Materials

0-6 months

- Toy books with bright colors, large and simple outlines, and special shapes
- Cloth books offering different textures, ideal for grasping and kneading



6-12 months

- Books made of different materials such as cloth books and bath books
- Picture books with short phrases and simple illustrations
- Sturdy and easy-to-turn board books
- Sensory manipulation game books

1-2 years old

- Pictures depicting experiences from the baby's daily life (such as food, toys) or life-related picture books
- Picture books featuring bright colors, large illustrations and minimal text
- Sensory manipulation books

2-3 years old

- Picture books with simple plots and repetitive sentence structures
- Books reflecting children's life experiences and habits such as eating, bathing, brushing teeth, using toilet, sleeping, visiting the doctor, etc.

3-5 years old

- Humorous and interesting books
- Books that explore psychological emotions
- Life stories that expand on various experiences
- Stories centered around family and friendship
- Educational picture books



Parent-child Shared Reading Tips

0-6 months

- Provide auditory stimulation by singing nursery rhymes while caring for your baby
- Hug your baby frequently and engage in conversations
- Place colorful toys or pictures in your baby's surroundings



6-12 months

- Use variations in tone or sound-making props to play storytelling games with your baby
- Allow your baby to explore books freely and guide them in using simple finger movements to turn pages
- Point at the pictures while reading together and describe them to your baby

1-2 years old

- Sing songs about body parts or facial features with simple actions during bath time
- Let your baby turn the pages while you read the story or tell the story in a playful manner, matching the content by varying your voice and facial expressions, and adding gestures

2-3 years old

- Slow down your speech while reading the story and pay attention to sentence length to aid your child's memory and imitation

3-5 years old

- Guide your child in understanding the relationship between written words and sounds
- Share your own experiences and thoughts with your child while discussing story content to expand their cognitive thinking
- Encourage your child to tell stories to family members