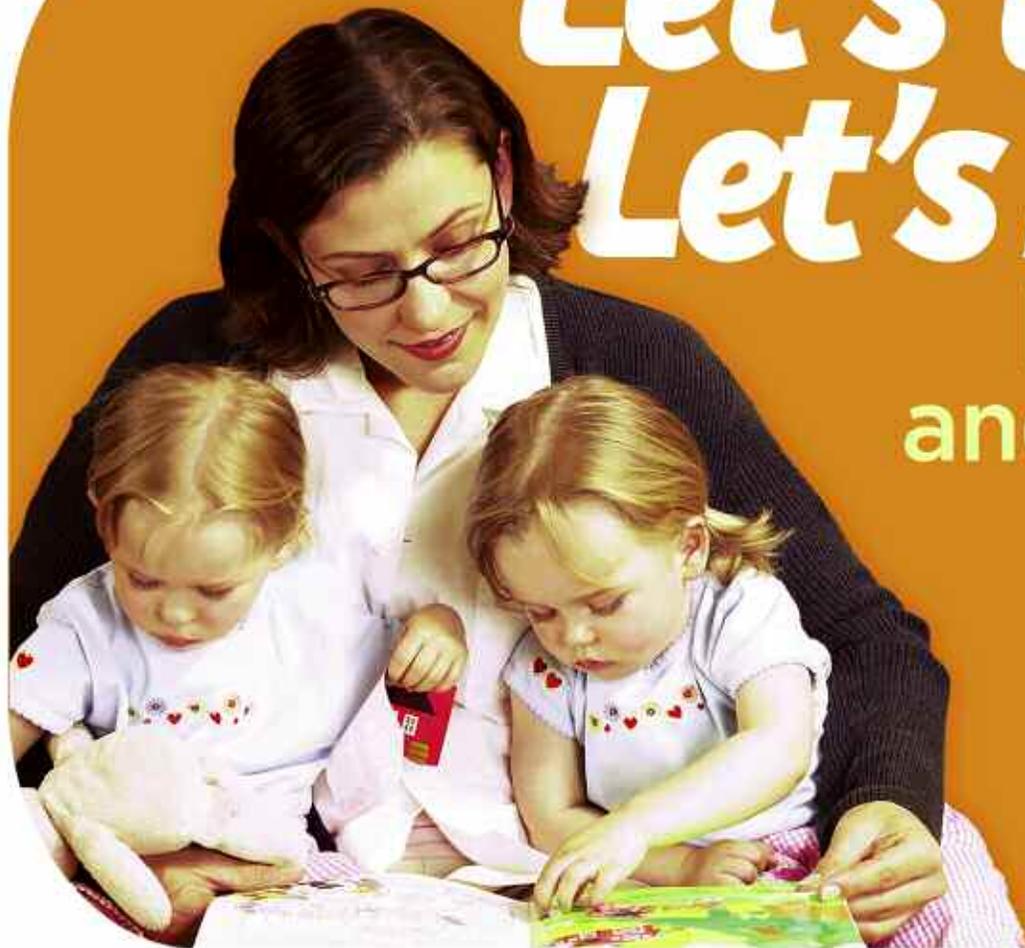


# Let's Talk! Let's Read!

language  
and literacy  
go  
together





If you speak more than one language at home or if English is not your first language, talk, read and sing in both languages, one at a time, don't mix them together.

# *Good talkers become good readers*

Children who have trouble understanding and talking may have trouble learning to read and write later on.

***A good way to help your children become good readers is to encourage them to be good talkers.***

- Talk, read, say rhymes and sing songs with your children at a very young age. These activities will help them to develop the skills that they will need to be able to read and write.



# Babies: birth to 6 months should be able to...

## Talking and Listening

- Communicate by crying, smiling, babbling and with body movements.
- Recognize familiar voices and notice new sounds.

## Exploring Literacy

- Chew, throw and bang books. That's okay!
- Open and close books with your help.
- Look briefly at pictures while you turn the pages.
- Feel what's on a textured page.
- React to noises the book makes.

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## Things for YOU to Try

- Hold and talk to your baby! Be face to face.
- Sing to your baby.
- Copy your baby's sounds and facial expressions.
- Tell your baby nursery rhymes.
- Cuddle and share books.
- Enjoy your baby and have fun!

## Best Books

- Books with large, simple pictures. Photographic pictures are best!
- Board books that can go everywhere with your children.
- Cloth and vinyl books that can go in the bath.
- *Black and White* by Tana Hoban
- *Baby Faces* by Playskool Books
- *My First Mother Goose* by Rosemary Wells

# Babies: 7 months to 1 year should be able to...

## Talking and Listening

- Understand common words (sock, ball).
- Copy sounds (dada, mama).
- Point to ask for things they want and to show you things they are interested in.
- Say 2-5 words by 12 months.

## Exploring Literacy

- Recognize clear and simple pictures or photographs that remind them of familiar people and things.
- Learn to listen to the sounds (boom, ouch, oink, vroom) you make to match the pictures. They may even try to copy them.
- Feel, touch, chew and play with books.

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## Things for YOU to Try

- Give names to the objects, actions, and people when looking at books.
- Change your voice when you read (excited, sad, whisper).
- Make sound effects ('vroom' for cars).
- Let your baby turn the pages if they want to.

## Best Books

- Board books with:
  - flaps, pockets, textures, simple sound effects and clear pictures
  - photos of other babies
  - pictures of familiar objects (ball, sock).
- *Where's Spot?* by Eric Hill
- *Touch and Feel Mealtime* by DK Publishing, Inc.
- *Peek a Boo* by Roberta Grobel Intrater

# Toddlers: 1 to 2 years should be able to...

## Talking

- Communicate with gestures (opens hand to request, shakes head no, waves bye-bye.)
- Attempt to copy words that you say.
- Begin to say words to send messages.
- Say 10 - 20 words consistently by 18 months.
- Play with different consonant sounds: b, m, p, h, w, t, d, and n. Other sounds may still be difficult for them to say.
- Put 2 words together (more juice) by 24 months.
- Use between 50 and 150 words.

## Listening

- Follow simple directions.
- Point to body parts and things they want.
- Understand much more than they can say!

## Exploring Literacy

- Choose and look at books by themselves.
- Point and name pictures, and turn the pages with your help.
- Enjoy books about their favourite things (cars, animals).
- Recognize a favourite book and show you that they want you to read it.
- Hold a book right side up and learn to turn the pages by themselves.

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## Things for YOU to Try

- Talk about what's happening in the pictures. Don't worry about reading all of the words.
- Give names to the pictures, objects, actions and people.
- Follow underneath the sentence with your finger as you read.
- Listen carefully to what they are saying and give them time to take their turn.
- Give them a chance to scribble and pretend to write.

## Best Books

- Books with:
  - lots of repetition; a few words on each page.
  - simple rhymes.
- Small plastic photo albums with pictures of family, friends, and special activities.
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.
- *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell

# Toddlers: 2 to 3 years should be able to...

## Talking and Listening

- Put more words together in a short sentence (mommy shoe on).
- Speak clearly enough to be understood by people who know them well.
- Follow two-part directions (Get the ball and throw it to me).
- Understand early concepts (big/little, on/off).

## Exploring Literacy

- Fill in a word or a phrase when it is their 'turn', while reading a familiar story or rhyme with you.
- Enjoy listening to short stories from the beginning to end.
- Pretend to read the book by themselves.

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## Things for YOU to Try

- Read your child's favourite books over and over.
- Say the first part of the sentence and let your child fill in the rest.
- Say rhymes and sing songs over and over.
- Sing the "ABC" song with your child.
- Count lots of different things with your child (stairs, buttons, smarties).
- Use your child's name in the story.
- Encourage your child to 'read' environmental print like exit signs, stop signs or logos like Cheerios.

## Best Books

- Books that tell simple stories and rhymes.
- Interactive books (with flaps).
- Books about a favourite movie or T.V. character.
- Books about counting and the alphabet.
- Stories with more adventures are especially fun!
- *School Bus* by Donald Crews
- *Sheep in a Jeep* by Nancy Shaw
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

# Preschoolers: 3 to 4 years should be able to...

## Talking and Listening

- Talk in sentences of four or more words (He is not here).
- Carry on a conversation about past and future events.
- Speak clearly enough to be understood by everyone.
- Understand and answer simple who, what, what's it for, and where questions.
- Use lots and lots of different words.

## Exploring Literacy

- Enjoy a wide variety of books.
- Make connections between the book and their own life experiences.
- Retell favourite stories.
- Answer simple questions about stories.
- Understand that printed words have meaning.
- Recognize their name in print.
- Know some letters of the alphabet (not in order).

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## Things for YOU to Try

- Take your children to the library. Sign up for story time.
- Play word games with your child. For example, tell your child to say 'snowman'. Then tell them to say it again without saying 'snow'.
- Highlight words that rhyme (cat and hat, Fancy Nancy).
- Name the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make.
- Point out words and letters in menus, at the grocery store and on the street.
- Talk about words that start with the same sound (Mickey Mouse).

## Best Books

- Concept/theme books: opposites, counting, shapes, places, animals, cars, clothing. Repetitive and predictable books.
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault
- *The Three Little Pigs*
- *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*

# Preschoolers: 4 to 5 years should be able to...

## Talking and Listening

- Stay on topic and tell a story with a beginning, middle and end.
- Say most sounds, but may still have trouble saying: ch, j, sh, r, and th, and consonant blends (star, bread).
- Join in adult conversations.
- Understand long verbal instructions (When Grandpa arrives, tell him I'm outside).
- Enjoy jokes and riddles.

## Exploring Books

- Go into the world of make-believe while reading (If I was a princess, I would...).
- Understand that print is read left to right and top to bottom.
- Begin to write simple words (his/her name, mom, dad).

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## Things for YOU to Try

- When your child draws pictures, print the story as they tell it.
- Have your child help make lists: grocery, guest, Christmas.
- Read recipes, labels, greeting cards, instructions, and phone numbers with your child.
- Find words in big and small print.

## Best Books

- Books with:
  - longer sentences and more difficult words,
  - repetitive sentences they can memorize or read.
- *The Mitten* by Jan Brett
- *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch
- *Franklin in the Dark* by Paulette Bourgeois

# S

Share a book everyday.

# 1

# M

Make it fun: don't expect them to finish the book if they don't want to.

# 2

# A

Ask questions: make connections to the child's life throughout the story.

# 3

# R

Re-read the same books over and over to help your child learn new words.

# 4

# T

Track the words with your finger so they see where you are reading.

# 5

## *Fabulous 5 of Book Reading*



# *Fabulous 5 of Learning to Read* for Preschoolers



1

C

Clap out words into parts (ba-na-na).

2

L

Learn letter names and their sounds.

3

E

Expand vocabulary by introducing a wide variety of new words (tired = exhausted).

4

A

Attempt to write, even if it's scribbling.

5

R

Retell events and stories in an order that makes sense.



**Speech Services Niagara**  
the preschool speech,  
language and emergent  
literacy system for Niagara

Partners

- Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre (NPCC)
- Niagara Health System

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