



Infant Toddler Lang/Literacy Activities

Reading Books (newborn - 3 years old)

The first—and best—tip for sharing books with young children is to have fun together! If children are engaged and enjoying themselves, they are learning. When children have positive interactions with books, they are developing good feelings about reading, which will motivate them to continue seeking out books and other literacy materials as they grow. Some ways to interact with books with your young child include: Talking or singing about the pictures, or asking your child to tell you about what they see in the pictures. Let your child be involved in turning the pages. When reading the story make it personal to your child, talk about your family, pets or community as it is related to the story. Use the story to have a back-and-forth conversation with your child. Talk about familiar activities and objects you see in the illustrations or read about in the story; and encourage your child to ask questions about the story. You can extend reading books with your child by having your child create their own book. They can draw the pictures and dictate to the parent the words they want in the story or write their own words. (From zerotothree.org) **Free books monthly for children 0-5 at the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library:** www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org/enroll

Songs and Fingerplays (newborn - 3 years old)

Music plays a powerful role in the lives of young children. Through music, babies and toddlers can come to better understand themselves and their feelings, learn to decipher patterns and solve problems, and discover the world around them in rich, complex ways. Most important, sharing music experiences with the people they love makes very young children feel cherished and important (From zerotothree.org) Simple songs and fingerplays for infants and toddlers include: "If You're Happy and You Know It," "Itsy Bitsy Spider", "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," "The Wheels on the Bus," "Five Little Monkey's Jumping on the Bed," "Ten in the Bed." **Super Simple Songs on YouTube:** www.youtube.com/user/SuperSimpleSongs

Sticker Name Recognition (2 ½ - 3 years old)

Write each letter of child's name on a piece of paper. Next, write each letter of child's name on plain dot stickers. You can either write the letters in order, or to make it a little more challenging you can write the letters in random order. This activity can be extended to include color recognition. Write child's name on construction paper that match the colors of dot stickers. To include music with this activity, sing the song "I Have a Friend" (to the tune of BINGO) I have a friend who's very nice and Eddie is his name-o. E-D-D-I-E, E-D-D-I-E, E-D-D-I-E and Eddie is his name-o.

Sticker I Spy (2 - 3 years old)

Give child an assortment of stickers and a piece of paper. Encourage child to place stickers on paper how they choose. Once they are done look at the paper with them and take turns giving, I Spy clues, such as I spy a stop sign, or I Spy something red. This activity may seem simple and unassuming but I promise you, so much learning is happening here. In Sticker I-Spy, children are working on:

- Fine motor skills (peeling the stickers off)
- Visual discrimination (searching for and finding the stickers)
- Vocabulary
- Game play skills: taking turns

Secret Letters (2 - 3 years old)



Take a white crayon and your child's name on a piece of white paper. Next give them watercolors and a paint brush; and encourage them to paint on the paper. As they paint the letters in their name will appear on the paper. While completing this activity with your child you can talk about the letters in their name. You can extend this activity by having your child write their name however they choose and then have them paint over it to reveal.

Who Loves Me? Book (newborn - 3 years old)

Create a book of special people in your child's life. Collect photos of people who are a part of your child's life (grandparents, siblings, aunts, friends etc.) Next take paper and attach the photos (glue stick or tape on the back) and write underneath who is in the photo (to prevent photos being ripped off cover photo with packing tape). Attach book pages together using a stapler or punch holes and tie tightly with yarn.

Alphabet Soup Sensory (6 months - 3 years old)

Place foam or magnet letters in a large container with water, spoons or ladle, and bowls. Encourage your child to explore the letters and water; naming the letters as they show you what they have scooped up. To extend this activity for older children (2 ½-3 years old) you can take an old cookie sheet and write letters on it, and encourage your child to match each letter that they scoop to the letters on the cookie sheet.

Alphabet Blocks (9 months - 3 years old)

On a piece of paper write letters, A-Z in both upper and lower case; then cut out and tape to your child's favorite blocks. As your child is building with the blocks talk to them about the letters that they see. This can be extended for older children (2-3 years old) to have them match upper to lowercase letters or add in the letters to spell their name.

Alphabet Sort (2 - 3 years old)

Take your collection of alphabet toys and create an alphabet sort for your child. If you don't have a lot of alphabet toys write the letters on index cards or small pieces of paper in different colors; place bowls or other containers in front of your child to hold the letters that they are sorting. Sorting all 26 letters of the alphabet is a very intimidating task; begin with the letters that are meaningful to your child, such as the letters in their name. Once they have mastered their name; break the remaining letters into groups of 4-6.

Writing Letters (15 months - 3 years old)

Give your child a piece of paper and a variety of writing tools (pen, pencil, marker, etc.) and encourage them to write a letter to someone (grandparents, siblings, aunt/uncle, friends/teacher, etc.) Through this experience your toddler is learning how to hold a writing tool; moving from holding the writing tool in their fist (palmer grasp) to holding it with their fingers and thumb (pincher grasp) as the muscles in their hand, fingers, and wrists become stronger. As your child writes they are imitating how they see others write, and are learning that their marks have meaning. When your child is done writing ask them what it says and write it down under their words. Next, ask your child who they want to send their letter to and show them how you address the envelope. Children love receiving mail, include a note in your child's letter asking for a return letter.