



Wee Learn



Wee Explorers (18 months - 3 years):
You're Never too Young for Story Time

A child is never too young to enjoy a good story on a caregiver's lap. In fact, the earlier we expose children to books, the more we can foster language development, as well as a love of reading later in life. Plus reading together can be an important bonding time with your toddler. After all, you must give your child your undivided attention when you read to them.

Here are some things to think about to get the most out of story time with your toddler:

- 1. Do not wait until the child is tired to read to them.** While nap time and bedtime are a great opportunity to snuggle up with a book, that should not be the only time you read with your child. Find opportunities throughout the day (i.e., play time, snack time, etc.)
- 2. Sing the words to stories that rhyme.** Music has a way of sticking with us, so it is a great way for kids to begin to remember vocabulary and concepts.
- 3. Make sure to point to words and pictures as you read and encourage children to turn the pages.** By doing these simple things, you are encouraging print awareness in even the youngest children.
- 4. Look for books with simple stories and rhymes.** It is better to start with books containing simple words and pictures.
- 5. Don't forget to be enthusiastic!** This is your chance for your inner drama king or queen to come out! It is fun to be theatrical and creative, and your kids will eat it up!
- 6. Read the same stories over and over again!** If your toddler loves a book, read it to them over and over, this will encourage them to join you in reading when they are comfortable, even if it's just one or two words.

Some good books for this are:

- Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See?
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- From Head To Toe
- I Love You
- Good Night Moon

Here are some literacy activities you can do with your toddlers to promote a love of reading:

- Print the sequencing cards and place them in order from the story at eye level for the child to explore as they toddle around.
- Put the sequencing cards near the changing table so infants can look at the pictures during dressing and diapering routines.
- Use contact paper to adhere the images from the story to blocks so that the child can build the characters into play time.
- Use a sing-song voice when repeating rhymes or make it into a song.
- Adhere images from the story on stacking cups to reinforce sequencing of the story.
- Use simple signs with the story, such as color words or signs for animals. Signing images like the ones available in our Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See unit.
- Print sequencing cards on magnetic sheets to use on the refrigerator or a metal baking sheet.
- Create craft stick puppets and put on a show for your infant or toddler.
- Put laminated sequencing cards in a sensory bin, bottle, or bag.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3o2BAFQ>

For more ideas follow us on social media or visit our Wee Talk Blog
<http://www.weewatch.com/wee-talk-blog/>

