



Developmental Milestones of Early Literacy

	MOTOR	COGNITIVE	WHAT PARENTS CAN DO
6 - 12 Months			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaches for book • Puts book in mouth • Sits in lap, head steady • Turns pages with help • Speaks first words (10 – 14 mos.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks at pictures • Prefers pictures of faces • Recognizes familiar objects • Vocalizes, pats pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold child comfortably • Follow baby's cues for "more" or "stop" • Point and name pictures • Sing and talk to your baby 
12 - 18 Months			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sits without support • May carry book • Holds book with help • Begins to turn board pages • Enjoys Peek-a-Boo and Pat-a-Cake • Average 20-100 words by 18 mos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points at pictures with one finger • Makes same sound to label particular picture • Points when asked "where's...?" • Turns book right side up • Gives book to adult to read 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make time to enjoy reading every day • Respond to child's prompting to read • Let the child control the book • Be comfortable with toddler's short attention span • Ask "where's the.....?" and let child point 
18 - 24 Months			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turns board book pages easily, one at a time • Carries book around the house • May use book as transitional object (e.g. at bedtime) • Average 300 spoken words by 24 mos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names familiar pictures • Fills in words in familiar stories • "Reads" to stuffed animals, dolls, or self • Recites parts of familiar stories • Attention span highly variable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate books to child's experiences • Use books in routines, bedtimes • Ask "what is that?" and give child time to answer • Pause and let child complete the sentence • Visit the library for books to borrow
24 - 36 Months			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learns to handle paper pages • Searches in books for favorite pictures • Average 900 spoken words by 36 mos. • Speaks in sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recites whole phrases, sometimes whole stories • Has a sense of story sequence • Coordinates text with picture • Protests when adult gets a word wrong in a familiar story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be willing to read the same story over and over • Enjoy snuggling and reading daily. • Talk about the books. Ask "why", "how" and "what do you think" questions. Give child time to answer • Provide crayons and paper
3 - 5 Years			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competent book handling • Turns paper pages one at a time • Average 2500 spoken words by 5 years • Attempts to read and write • Begins to write letters and then own name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens to longer stories • Can retell familiar story • Understands what text is • Moves finger along text • Recognizes some letters • Participates in rhyming games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask "what's happening?" • Encourage writing and drawing • Let child tell the story • Continue to re-read favorite stories • Play with words: rhymes, riddles, jokes 
5 - 7 Years			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to read on own • By age 7 most read independently • Writes own sentences and stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands that print goes from left to right and top to bottom • Recognizes letter and sound matches • Can use phonological skills to sound out and decipher words • Learns basic spelling and punctuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to read aloud even after your child can read alone • Have many books at home: visit yard sales, trade with friends • Let children see adults reading  