

Developmental Milestones of Early Literacy

	MOTOR	COGNITIVE	WHAT PARENTS CAN DO
6 - 12 Months			
	- Reaches for book - Puts book in mouth - Sits in lap, head steady - Turns pages with help - Speaks first words (10 – 14 mos.)	- Looks at pictures - Prefers pictures of faces - Recognizes familiar objects - Vocalizes, pats pictures	- Hold child comfortably - Follow baby's cues for "more" or "stop" - Point and name pictures - Sing and talk to your baby 
12 - 18 Months			
	- 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.	- 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	- Make time to enjoy reading every day - Respond to child's request to read - Let the child control the book - Realize toddlers have short attention spans - Ask "where's the.....?" and let child point 
18 - 24 Months			
	- 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.	- 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	- 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			
	- Learns to handle paper pages - Searches in books for favorite pictures - Average 900 spoken words by 36 mos. - Speaks in sentences 	- 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	- 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			
	- Competent book handling - Turns paper pages one at a time - Average 2500 spoken words by 5 yrs. - Attempts to read & write - Begins to write letters and then own name 	- Listens to longer stories - Can retell familiar story - Understands what text is - Moves finger along text - Recognizes some letters - Participates in rhyming games	- Ask "what's happening?" - Encourage writing and drawing - Let child tell the story - Re-read favorite stories - Play with words: rhymes, riddles, jokes 
5 - 7 Years			
	- Begins to read on own - By age 7 most read independently - Writes own sentences and stories 	- Understands that print goes left to right and top to bottom - Recognizes letter-sound matches - Can use phonological skills to sound out and decipher words - Learns basic spelling and punctuation	- Continue to read aloud after your child can read alone - Have many books at home: visit yard sales, trade with friends - Let children see adults reading  

