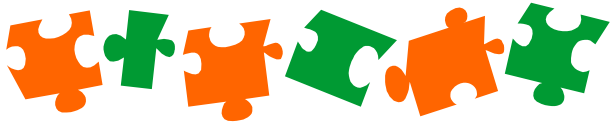


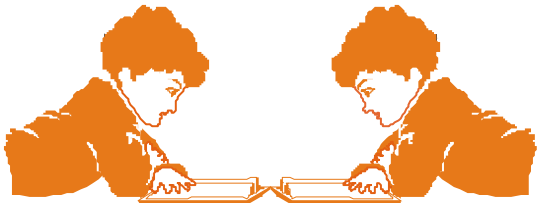
WHAT IS MY BABY/TODDLER LEARNING ABOUT READING?



It is never too early to introduce babies to the wonder of books! Babies and toddlers are beginning to learn that words are symbols that stand for real objects. This is the basis for reading. Babies learn about reading by seeing adults reading for enjoyment and for information.

We teach about reading by:

- ✦ talking and singing with babies and toddlers. Hearing language is a key to language development.
- ✦ giving babies board books or cloth books. These books are nearly indestructible, so it's OK if babies put them in their mouths. The important thing is that they are learning that books are fun and interesting.
- ✦ using books with photographs and faces and only a few words on each page.



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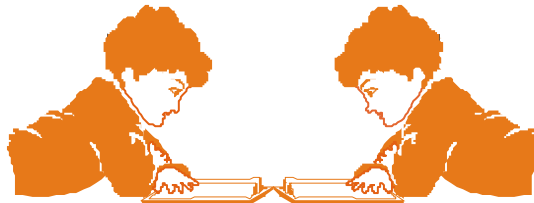
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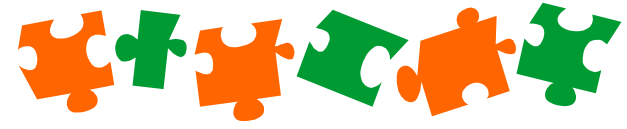
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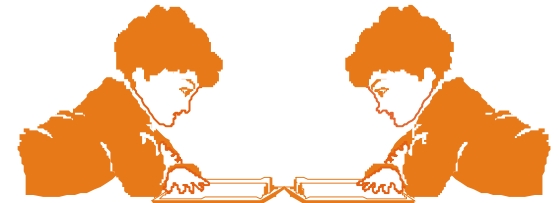
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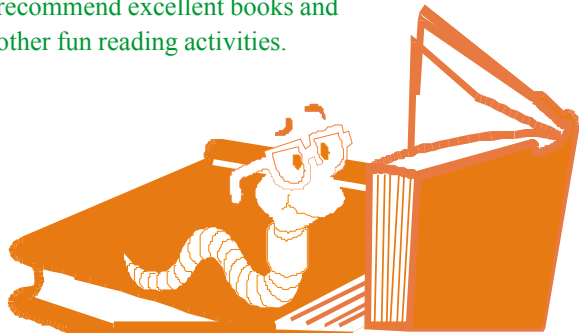
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- ✦ sharing short, rhyming stories and fingerplays.
- ✦ reading short stories and not demanding that babies pay attention for the whole story. Reading should be fun, not boring or forced upon children.
- ✦ involving toddlers in the story by allowing them to help turn the pages or asking them questions.
- ✦ making story time a “cuddle-up together” time, when the baby or toddler gets to enjoy the special experience of sharing a good book with an adult!

If you haven't already, begin taking your toddler to your public library regularly. The children's librarian can recommend excellent books and other fun reading activities.



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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 24-04

July, 1999

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Gale A. Buchanan, Dean and Director

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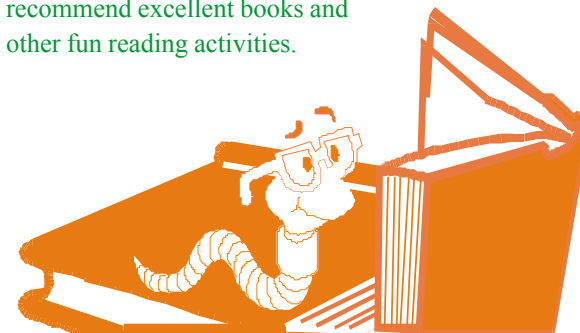
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