



National Reading Month

March 2 celebrates Read Across America Day. What better way to celebrate than to start making book sharing part of your daily routine with your child?

You can start reading aloud to your child as early as you like – the earlier the better. As you read to your child, you are helping them become familiar with sounds, words, language, and the value of books. This builds your child’s early literacy skills and helps them go on to be successful readers later in life. Sharing stories doesn’t mean you have to read. You can be a great storyteller and show children how to use books, just by looking at books with your child. They will see how you hold the book the right way and how to move through the book by gently turning pages.

Sharing stories encourages your child’s imagination, stimulates curiosity, and helps brain development. It also provides a great opportunity for bonding and building your relationship with your child.

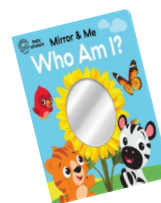
Some general guidelines to keep in mind when choosing books for young children:

For babies 0-6 months:

- Cloth and soft vinyl books with simple pictures of people or familiar objects
- Board books with simple, large pictures or designs with bright colors

For babies 6-12 months:

- Plastic or vinyl books for bath time
- Washable cloth books to cuddle and mouth
- Board books with photos of babies and other familiar objects



For younger toddlers 12-24 months:

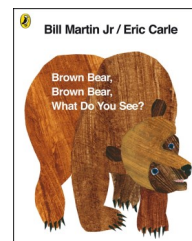
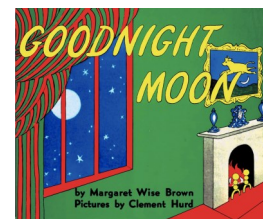
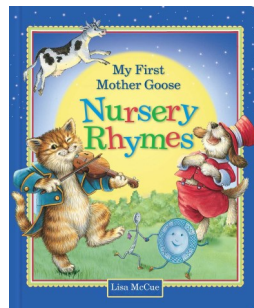
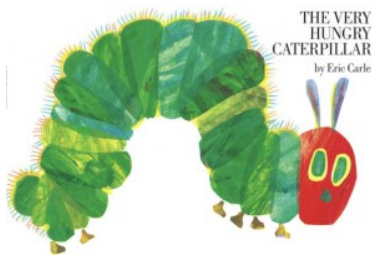
- Bedtime books
- Touch and feel
- Books with rhymes or repetitive text
- Books with children doing familiar things such as sleeping or playing



For older toddler 24-36 months:

- Books that tell simple stories
- Rhyming books that can be memorized
- Books about ABCs, numbers, shapes, sizes, animals, vehicles, and playtime
- Pop-up, pull the tab, and touch and feel books

Be sure to visit your local library for a variety of books and activities that will encourage your child's love of reading.



***Remember to turn your clocks forward on Sunday
March 12 at 2 am.***



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Happy Birthday to all March birthdays!

Important dates this month:

March 2: Read Across America Day

March 12: Daylight Savings Time

March 17: St. Patrick's Day