

Reading with Toddler

Toddlers need to have many books read to them before they start to read themselves. When they have many, many opportunities with reading, including have books read to them and sharing favourite stories, they learn how books work and that reading is fun. They begin to handle books with care and purpose and understand that the print and pictures carry messages.



Choosing books for toddlers

- Board books are highly practical choices as they are sturdy and can be frequently handled and carried
- Simple story books with paper pages, lots of pictures and smaller amounts of text, encouraging talking and discussion about the pictures as you read together
- Predictable books about songs or with rhyme and repetition are engaging choices

Toddler Picture Books

- **A Little Book About 1 2 3s** Leo Lionni
- **Counting Our Country** Jill Daniels
- **Eating the Alphabet** Lois Ehlert
- **Hippopotamuses** Janik Coat (board book)
- **I Want My Hat Back** Jon Klassen
- **In the City I See** Tori Jay Mordey
- **Little Excavator** Anna Dewdney
- **Mouse Paint** Ellen Stoll Walsh (board book)
- **My Country** Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Sally Morgan
- **Nest** Jorey Hurley (board book)
- **Not a Box** Antoinette Portis (board book)
- **Not a Stick** Antoinette Portis (board book)
- **Owl Babies** Martin Waddell
- **Peace At Last** Jill Murphy
- **Peepo** Janet and Alan Ahlberg
- **Rosie's Walk** Pat Hutchins
- **"Spot" series** Eric Hill
- **The Butterfly Garden** Michael Torres
- **The Tiger Who Came to Tea** Judith Kerr
- **Tip Tip Dig Dig** Emma Garcia
- **Wait** Antoinette Portis
- **What Do You Call a Baby..?** Kamsani Bin Sella

Books to Sing

- **Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes** Annie Kubler
- **The Wheels on the Bus** Annie Kubler
- **If You're Happy and You Know It** Annie Kubler
- **Row, Row, Row Your Boat** Annie Kubler
- **Old MacDonald Had a Farm** Mandy Foot
- **Ten Little Monkeys Jumping On the Bed** Tina Freeman
- **There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly** Pam Adams
- **This Old Man** Pam Adams
- **Over in the Meadow** Jane Cabrera
- **Cows in the Kitchen** June Krebbin
- **The Itsy Bitsy Spider** Izra Trapani
- **Fiddle-I-Fee** Will Hellenbrand

Rhythm, rhyme and repetition in nursery rhymes, songs and quality picture books encourage early reading. The patterns here emphasise words so that they can be clearly heard, understood and predicted. Books about songs are wonderful because toddlers can make connections with the words they know and the pictures they can see. Songs with actions bring the words to life.

Toddlers are constantly on the **move** and might not sit in one place for very long. However, toddlers still need reading **experiences** every day. Toddlers enjoy books with lots of **action** about everyday experiences that help them **explore** and **understand** their world.

Books with Rhythm and Rhyme

- **I Went Walking Sue** Machin Julie Vivas
- **Dear Zoo** Rod Campbell
- **Farm 123** Rod Campbell
- **Aussie Animals** Rod Campbell
- **Orange Pear, Apple Bear** Emily Gravett (board book)
- **Monkey and Me** Emily Gravett (board book)
- **Bonnie and Ben Rhyme Again** Mem Fox
- **This and That** Mem Fox (board book)
- **Boo to a Goose** Mem Fox
- **Where is the Green Sheep?** Mem Fox (board book)
- **Each Peach Pear Plum** Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- **We're Going On a Bear Hunt** Michael Rosen
- **Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?** Bill Martin, Eric Carle
- **Polar Bear Polar Bear, What Do Your Hear?** Eric Carle
- **Panda Bear Panda Bear, What Do You See?** Eric Carle
- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** Eric Carle
- **Moo, Baa, La La La!** Sandra Boynton
- **The Gruffalo** Julia Donaldson
- **The Gruffalo's Child** Julia Donaldson
- **Room on a Broom** Julia Donaldson
- **It's the Bear!** Jez Alborough
- **Where's My Teddy?** Jez Alborough
- **Wombat Stew** Marcia K. Vaughan
- **My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes** Eve Sutton
- **Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy** Lynley Dodd
- **The Little Yellow Digger** Betty and Alan Gilderdale
- **Llama, Llama Red Pyjama** Anna Dewdney

These well known, quality picture books feature rhythm, rhyme and repetition and when read aloud, support your toddler's developing language and literacy. Toddlers need to hear many, many books read aloud before they begin to read themselves and quality book choices support this process. These books should be read and read and read until they are familiar friends. Emphasise the word patterns and rhymes. Toddlers love the way the words sound and to join in.

Tips for Reading with Toddler

- **Make friends with stories.** Read the same books over and over again. Recite rhymes and sing the same songs... again and again.
- **Point to words while reading.** Demonstrate the process—moving hand from left to right. Encourage toddler to turn the pages and point to what they see (e.g. Can you find the bear?)
- **Make the story exciting.** Help the story come alive. Use expression, voices and make the animal noises. Have fun and play. It is not necessary to read the whole book.
- **Make it personal.** Chat about toddler's family, pets or friends throughout, making personal connections wherever possible.
- **Point and name to build vocabulary.** Ask questions about the pictures and encourage lots of talking.
- **Encourage movement.** Toddlers are movers and may move, wiggle and dance during reading. Carry on— chances are the toddler is listening while moving. Incorporate movement into the story for even greater connection.
- **Find words that rhyme in stories and songs.** Play with words and make up silly words.
- **Notice letters and words in everyday life** e.g. on signs, in books, packaging

The magic of bringing print to life happens through the interactions which engage the toddler, encouraging joining in, actions and prediction. This is where a life long love of reading begins.

0-1 1-2 **2-3** 3-4 4-5 School

Toddler

Becoming A Reader