

South Central
REGIONAL LIBRARY
Altona, Manitou, Miami, Morden & Winkler

BABIES AND BOOKS

SHARING BOOKS AND LANGUAGE WITH AN INFANT DURING THE FIRST YEAR

Prepared by

South Central Regional Library

sctl.mb.libraries.coop



Resources for this booklet are taken from:

Babies and Books: A Calendar for Babies and Parents: Prince George Public Library

Entertaining and educating babies and toddlers: Young, Caroline.

What will I do with the Baby-o?: Cobb, Jane

Revised May 2024

Membership

A library card is free to any resident of Morden, Winkler, Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee, R.M. of Stanley, Rhineland Municipality, R.M. of Thompson, and R.M of Pembina upon presentation of identification with a current address.

Non-residents can join the library by purchasing a family membership. Please ask at your local library for further information.

Programs for children

Pre-School Story Time programming

Pre-school Story Time is a program for children ages 3 ½-5 years. Each story time program lasts about 45 minutes. Activities include stories, songs, fingerplays, felt board stories etc. For more information, call your local branch.



Summer Reading Club

The Summer Reading Club is aimed at school-age children in grades 1—6, but all children are welcome to participate. During the summer children are encouraged to read each day. This helps to maintain their level of reading during the summer months.

Month 1

Baby Likes:

- to suck
- to listen to soft sounds
- to be held and rocked
- to have objects and faces within 8 to 10 inches (vision is limited)

Baby Knows:

Your one month old is becoming more sensitive to surroundings. Their vision and hearing are improving, so they will notice more of what's going on around them. You may see them respond with pleasure to a colourful toy, or to your face and voice, when you hold them close. They may also react with surprise if they hear a sudden noise.

Rhyming

In *Getting Ready to Read*, Betty Boeghold states that “*rhyming reinforces language rhythms through all the baby’s senses.*” Here’s a great rhyme to get started with:

**Pat your head and rub your tummy
Tickle your toes and hug your mummy.**

Lullabies

For someone who hasn’t sung or heard lullabies for a long time, try:

Lullaby Lulu / Lulu and the Tomcat

Snooze music / Scott, Rick

Books, Books, Books

Sharing books and language with an infant will provide a quiet, peaceful time that will heighten the bonding experience.

Read, Read, Read to baby... especially books that sound good

Mother Goose collections are ideal. Since baby has poor vision, illustrations are not as important.

Start by borrowing a copy from the library so you can decide which one you prefer. Then buy your child their first book.

Switching on the moon / Yolen, Jane

Nursery rhymes & Mother Goose / Wildsmith, Brian

Hello Baby On the Go & Hello Baby Animals / Priddy, Roger

Pocketful of stars : rhymes, chants and lap games / Williams, Felicity



Month 2

Baby:

- Listens to your voice
- Looks up and to the side
- Begins to notice faces



Give your baby toys with interesting textures.

This month all your efforts will be rewarded with beaming, toothless baby smiles. Your baby's first genuine smiles will be among the most heart-warming milestones.

Rhyming

Here's a new rhyme to try this month.

**Butterfly Kiss, A butterfly, Fluttered by,
And gave a kiss, Just like this.**



Books, Books, Books

Read or sing anything you like to your infant. They need to hear lots of language, and they love the sound of your voice.

Babies at this age are learning to focus, so books with faces of children and family, and black and white books are good choices.

Checkers and Dot / Torres, J.

Saffy / George, Kallie

Baby Face / Rylant, Cynthia

Whingdingdilly book / Peet, Bill

Who says? / Aikins, Dave



Be a good example!

Read newspapers, magazines, and books when children are around. They will:

- Watch what you do
- Learn from what you do
- Copy what you do

Month 3

Baby:

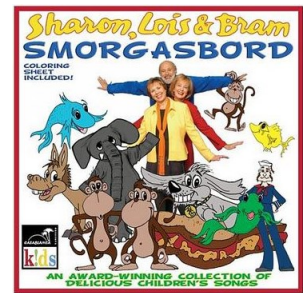
- Listens to musical sounds
- Can focus, especially on hands
- Bat nearby objects
- Smile

Hang a few bright, intriguing objects over crib and playpen. Those that ring, or cling or move in an interesting way are the best choices.

Sing Songs

Children's entertainers Sharon, Lois & Bram have given us a treasure trove of music for children. Introduce your child to them with the CD **Sharon Lois & Bram: Smorgasbord**

"Just as their bodies need food to grow, science now tells us that the positive emotional, physical, and intellectual experiences that a baby has in the earliest years are equally necessary for the growth of a healthy brain. ... In other words, early experiences help to determine brain structure, thus shaping the way people learn, think, and behave for the rest of their lives."



From the pamphlet ***The first years last forever*** published by the Canadian Institute of Child Health.

Your baby is too young to understand stories yet, but reading to your baby now will pay off. It will help your baby to develop good language skills and an ear for the varying rhythm of speech. Try changing the pitch of your voice, using accents, and singing to capture your baby's interest. Don't worry if they look the other way, or lose concentration. Try something else, or give them time to rest.

Books, Books, Books

Ten little fingers, ten little toes / Fox, Mem

Mortimer's first garden / Wilson, Karma

Bunnies hop / Glaser, Rebecca

Animal rhymes/ Ross, Tony

Pie in the sky / Ehlert, Lois

Baby Baa Baa / Sirett, Dawn



Month 4

Baby:

- Reaches and grasps crudely with two hands
- Begins to use mouth to explore
- Begins to make and imitate sounds



If your child tries to taste a book, be glad! This means that they are interested and want to explore further. Offer something else that is more acceptable to gum, and read the book to the child and they will soon learn its real purpose. This is a good time to keep lots of board books around as they are meant to sustain a moderate amount of chewing.

Rhyming

Sit down and hold baby on your knees. Bounce them gently to the rhythm of the following rhyme:

To market, to market, To buy a fat pig, Home again, home again, Jiggity jig.

Now do the following in the same manner, but bounce baby a little faster:

To market, to market, to buy a fat hog, Home again, home again, Jiggity jog.

Books, Books, Books

Dance, baby, dance / Andrea Spalding

Ready for Spring / Jocelyn, Marthe

Hello Summer / Sanrio

Hello Kitty, Hello Fall / Sanrio

Ready for Winter / Jocelyn, Marthe

Snowmen at night / Buehner, Caralyn

Who took the cookies from the cookie jar / Lass, Bonnie

Big red tub / Jarman, Julia

Clap your hands finger rhymes / Hayes, Sarah



*“Many nursery and other favorite rhymes, whether chanted or sung, involve physical contact with the baby. Experts tell us that such physical accompaniment is important. It reinforces language rhythms through all the baby’s senses.”—Betty Boeghold, **Getting ready to read**, page 21*

Month 5

Baby:

- Discovers feet and will kick
- Makes consonant sounds (especially “d” and “b”)
- May roll over
- Will transfer items from one hand to the other

Safety proof your home now and reduce the necessity to say “no” later.



Rhyming

Silly Toe Song

Eyes and nose, Mouth and TOES!

Ears and nose, Mouth and TOES!

Cheeks and nose, Mouth and TOES!

That is how this, Toe song GOES!

Books, Books, Books

The Special Blankie / Butler, M. Christina

Pat-a-cake /

That’s not my puppy / Watt, Fiona

The Very Busy Spider / Carle, Eric

Spot goes Splash! / Hill, Eric

Spot goes to the farm / Hill, Eric

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see? / Martin, Bill

Tickly Toes / Hood, Susan

Sing a song of bedtime / Reid, Barbara

Sing the cold winter away : family songs for wintertime / Reid-Naiman, Kathy

Lullabies & Lap rhymes / Jaeger, Sally



“In your attitude toward books and what you do with them, you provide a vital role model for your child.”

***Raising Readers* by National Council of Teachers of English**

Month 6

Baby:

- Can play peek-a-boo
- Can sit up
- Eye and hand co-ordination is developing



Rhyming

Peekaboo Kangaroo!

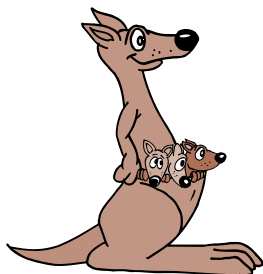
Peekaboo Kangaroo, Sitting next to baby's shoe.

Peekaboo Little Cat, Hiding under baby's hat.

Peekaboo Panda Bear, Are you cozy on that chair?

Peekaboo Little Mouse, Are you hiding in that house?

Peekaboo, I see you, Mouse and cat and Panda bear, too!



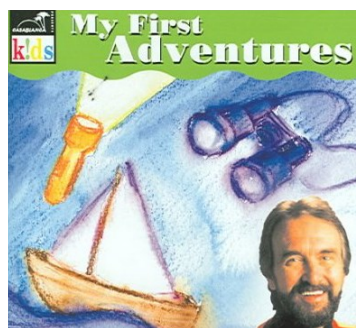
Music

Fred Penner has entertained children for decades. Check out one of his CDs from the library.

Fred Penner's Place

Rhyme a Word or Two

My First Adventures



Books, Books, Books

Each Peach, Pear, Plum / Ahlberg, Janet

Soup Day / Iwai, Melissa

Chicken, Pig, Cow, horse around / Ohi, Ruth

Peek-A-Boo / National Geographic

Hello, Red Fox / Carle, Eric

Tiny Toes / Jakob, Donna

Reading Magic: why reading aloud to our children will change their lives forever / Fox, Mem

The gift of reading / Bouchard, David

Read to me : Raising kids who love to read / Cullinan, Bernice

Month 7

Baby:

- Can control sound
- Is developing memory
- Is fascinated by small items

Memory development is just barely starting now. Begin reading short stories to establish good interactive habits. Repetitive stories are best.

Music

What'll I do with the baby-o? : nursery rhymes, songs, and stories for babies / compiled by Jane Cobb

Many of us can recall the tune:

Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory dickory dock, The mouse ran up the clock. (*Walk two fingers up the baby's arm*)

The clock struck one, (*A kiss on the nose*)

The mouse ran down, Hickory dickory dock. (*Run the fingers back down the same arm*)

Rhyming

Popcorn

Pop, pop, pop, You put the popcorn in the pot.

Pop, pop, pop, You shake it till it's hot.

Pop, pop, pop, You lift the lid and what have you got?

Pop, pop, pop, POPCORN!



Books, Books, Books

The rabbit and the turtle: Aesop's fables / Carle, Eric

Mister Seahorse / Carle, Eric

Time for bed / Fox, Mem

If you give a pig a pancake / Numeroff, Laura

When the world is ready for bed / Shields, Gillian

Polar bear morning / Thompson, Lauren

My father knows the names of things / Yolen, Jane

Mama loves me / Richmond, Marianne



Month 8

Baby:

- Can crawl
- Can throw, wave, and bang toys together
- Is very curious

Finger Plays

Finger plays involve the use of fingers, hands, and arms to “tell” the verse. They are excellent for teaching muscle control, numbers and language. To add variety to finger plays, try making simple puppets out of paper to demonstrate the rhyme (eg. two paper blackbirds for this rhyme.)

Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds, (Hold up two fingers)

Sitting on a hill, Once named Jack, (Wiggle one finger)

And the other named Jill, (Wiggle the other finger)

Fly away Jack, (Put one finger behind your back)

Fly away Jill, (Put other finger behind your back)

Come back Jack, (Bring one finger back)

Come back Jill, (Bring other finger back)



Music

Borrow a CD from the library for your child to enjoy.

Books, Books, Books

Love you forever / Munsch, Robert

Franklin in the dark / Bourgeois, Paulette

The very hungry caterpillar / Carle, Eric

One fish two fish / Dr. Seuss

Quiet bunny / McCue, Lisa

Always there bear / Granger, Trudi

Wiggle giggle tickle train / Hilb, Nora



TAKE NOTE!

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." — Walt Disney

"When I say to a parent, "read to a child", I don't want it to sound like medicine. I want it to sound like chocolate. " — Mem Fox

Month 9

Baby:

- Can stand briefly
- Can put fingers into holes
- Can enjoy games and remember them from the previous day
- Experiences separation anxiety



Music

You may remember this song. Share it with your child at bedtime and don't worry if the words are out of order; just make something up.

Hush Little Baby

Hush Little baby, don't say a word, Papa's going to buy you a mockingbird.

If that mockingbird don't sing, Papa's going to buy you a diamond ring.

If that diamond ring turns brass, Papa's going to buy you a looking glass.

If that looking glass gets broke, Papa's going to buy you a billy goat.

If that billy goat gets bony, Papa's going to buy you a cart & pony.

If that pony runs away, Papa's going to buy you another today.

Rhyming

This is a good rhyme to share

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Touch the ground.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn around.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Walk down the street.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Tickle those feet.

Books, Books, Books

Our Library / Eve Bunting

Caillou: The shopping trip / Nadeau, Nicole

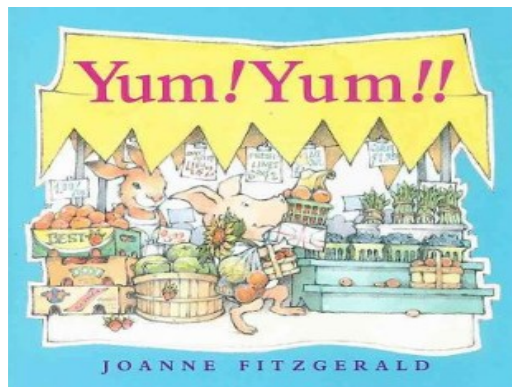
Corduroy / Freeman, Don

Ape in a cape / Eichenberg, Fritz

That's not my puppy / Watt, Fiona

Yum! Yum! / Fitzgerald, Joanne

Teddy Bears' Mother Goose / Hague, Michael



Month 10

Baby:

- Can play pat-a-cake
- Can imitate sounds
- Knows words and appropriate gestures (waves “bye-bye”)

If there is a Rock and Read or Parent/Child Mother Goose session in your community take advantage of it. These programs are wonderful for learning new rhymes, stories and songs.

Finger Play

For each number hold up the correct number of fingers. When you say “BANG” clap your hands.

Five Fat Sausages



5 fat sausages sizzling in a pan, All of a sudden one went BANG

4 fat sausages sizzling in a pan, All of a sudden one went BANG

3 fat sausages sizzling in a pan, All of a sudden one went BANG

2 fat sausages sizzling in a pan, All of a sudden one went BANG

1 fat sausage sizzling in a pan, All of a sudden one went BANG

Play

Make some pretend instruments and enjoy a silly symphony.

Some suggestions:

Pot lids for cymbals, ice cream pails for drums, make a shaker by putting a few dried beans or peas onto a paper plate (or bowl), staple another paper plate upside down onto it, use your imagination to make a guitar to strum.

Books, Books, Books

Take pictures of your child involved in daily activities, or cut out pictures of your baby’s favorite things. Make a special book for your child by gluing these pictures onto book-size poster board and cover with clear mactac.

First Steps / Burningham, John

Five little ducks / Bates, Ivan

One brown bunny / Bauer, Marion Dane

Wheels on the bus go round and round / Kubler, Annie

Down by the station / Stockham, Jessica

Where’s Spot? / Hill, Eric

Month 11

Baby:

- Can use fingers
- Can mark on a paper
- Look at pictures in a book with interest

Rhyming

This is a hand rhyme that can easily become a rhyme for a child to act out. You can cover one hand with the other. The child can cover their head with their arm or hide under a blanket or a towel. The fun is staying very still, then quickly popping out.

Jack in the Box

Jack in the Box, sit so still

Won't you come out?

Yes, I will!!!



Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

—Emilie Buchwald

You may have tangible wealth untold; Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.

Richer than I you can never be—I had a mother who read to me.

—Gillian Strickland

Baby games : the joyful guide to child's play from birth to three years - Martin, Elaine.

Make an easy bathtub book by cutting some favorite pictures from a magazine. Put them in ziploc bags, and then tape the bags together to make a book.

Stress to your child:

THIS IS THE ONLY BOOK TO EVER TAKE INTO THE BATHTUB!

Books, Books, Books

Marc Brown's Playtime Rhymes / Marc Brown

Seven Hungry Babies / Fleming, Candace

My Day / Campbell, Rod

One moose, twenty mice / Beaton, Clare

The Looking Book / Hoberman, Mary Ann



Month 12

Baby Likes:

- To imitate grown-ups
- To use one or two words
- To be hugged
- To manipulate pages of books

Time to Celebrate!

A whole year has passed since you brought home that brand new baby!

Rhyming

Tommy Thumb

Tommy Thumbs are up and Tommy Thumbs are down,
Tommy Thumbs are dancing, All around the town.
Dance 'em on your shoulders, Dance 'em on your head,
Dance 'em on your knees, And tuck them into bed.



Verses can be done with Peter Pointer, Toby Tall, Ruby Ring, Paula Pinky and Finger Family

Music

Give your child the gift of classical music.

The library has many of the “**Classical Kids Collection**” —Tales of enchantment and classical music.

Books, Books, Books

Birthday / Wells, Rosemary

Otis & Sydney and the best birthday ever / Numeroff, Jaura Joffe

A birthday for bear / Becker, Bonny

Baby touch your nose / Sirett, Dawn

Spot's birthday party / Hill, Eric

Boom Chicka Rock / Archambault, John

Captain Duck / Jez Alborough

Goodnight Moon / Margaret Wise Brown





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 160 Main Street
 Winkler, MB R6W 0M3

Branch Hours:

Altona, & Morden

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 10:00am – 8:00pm
 Wednesday: 10:00am – 5:00pm
 Thursday: 10:00am – 8:00pm
 Friday: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Manitou

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 10:00am – 12:30pm
 1:00pm – 7:30pm
 Wednesday: 10:00am – 12:30pm
 1:00pm – 5:30pm
 Thursday: 10:00am – 12:30pm
 1:00pm – 5:30pm
 Friday: 10:00am – 12:30pm
 1:00pm – 5:30pm

Miami

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 10:00am – 8:30pm
 Wednesday: 10:00am – 12:30pm
 1:00pm – 5:00pm
 Thursday: 1:00pm – 5:30pm
 Friday: 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Winkler

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 10:00am – 8:00pm
 Wednesday: 10:00am – 8:00pm
 Thursday: 10:00am – 8:00pm
 Friday: 10:00am – 5:00pm

All Branches of SCRL are **CLOSED**
 the Saturday before a long weekend.