



Reading to a Toddler

Sometimes toddlers are ready to listen to longer books. You can do a chapter at a time! You'll know when they are ready.

Establish a **regular time and place** for reading aloud. Have your reading session when your toddler is likely to sit still—early in the morning, just before or after nap-time, or just before bedtime. Build a routine that you both can look forward to.

Read when you are in a **positive mood**. Don't read when you don't feel like it.

Select books you would enjoy reading and let the toddler select others so you can read several books at one sitting. Have alternatives if the child seems uninterested in a particular book.

Settle into reading. **You and your child should be comfortable.**

Read a familiar story first. Then go to something new, and finish with another familiar book.

Involve the toddler with reading. Have them turn the pages of familiar stories, or leave out the last word of a rhyme and encourage the child to supply it.

Point out things in the pictures while you are reading and encourage your toddler to do the same. Let him or her share the fun of leafing through your books.

Read in a **soft voice** but with expression.

Be responsive. Stop reading when your child wants to stop.

After you have read a story, encourage the child to go back and look at the pictures again, and to talk about what you've read.



Let the child put the books back, and select another. Try reading a longer story—a children's book with no pictures. Sometimes children are ready for a chapter at a time, and that helps build anticipation!

Encourage your toddler to look through books **independently**.

Occasionally, choose **special times** other than your regular reading times and places. In your bed, for example; or on the floor, at the table while waiting for a meal, while you are working in the kitchen, in the car, anywhere outdoors.

Read to your child **frequently!!!!** **Raise a Reader!**