

Age	The kind of books that babies like	Motor skills related to books	Cognitive (thinking) skills related to books	What parents can do to help develop literacy skills
0-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board books with photos of babies</li> <li>Brightly coloured books to touch and taste</li> <li>Books with pictures of familiar objects</li> <li>Small-sized books for small hands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocalizes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looks at pictures</li> <li>Prefers pictures of faces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold your baby comfortably; look face-to-face</li> <li>Follow baby's cues for "more" and "stop"</li> <li>Point and name pictures for baby</li> </ul>
6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board books with photos of babies</li> <li>Brightly coloured books to touch and taste</li> <li>Books with pictures of familiar objects</li> <li>Small-sized books for small hands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reaches for books</li> <li>Puts books to mouth</li> <li>Sits in your lap</li> <li>Turns pages with your help</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looks at pictures</li> <li>Prefers pictures of faces</li> <li>Vocalizes, pats pictures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold your baby comfortably; look face-to-face</li> <li>Follow baby's cues for "more" and "stop"</li> <li>Point and name pictures for baby</li> </ul>
12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sturdy board books to handle and carry</li> <li>Books with images of babies and children doing familiar things, like sleeping, eating and playing</li> <li>Goodnight books for bedtime</li> <li>Books about saying hello and goodbye</li> <li>Books with only a few words on each page</li> <li>Books with simple rhymes and predictable text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sits without support</li> <li>May carry book</li> <li>Holds book with help</li> <li>Turns board pages, several at a time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No longer mouths the book right away</li> <li>Points at pictures with one finger</li> <li>May make the same sound for a specific picture</li> <li>Points when asked: "where's...?"</li> <li>Turns book right side up</li> <li>Gives book to adult to read</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond when your child wants to read</li> <li>Let your child control the book</li> <li>Be comfortable with a toddler's short attention span</li> <li>Ask "where's the...?" and let your child point</li> </ul>
18-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sturdy board books to handle and carry</li> <li>Books with images of babies and children doing familiar things, like sleeping, eating and playing</li> <li>Goodnight books for bedtime</li> <li>Books about saying hello and goodbye</li> <li>Books with only a few words on each page</li> <li>Books with simple rhymes and predictable text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turns board book pages easily, one at a time</li> <li>Carries book(s) around the home</li> <li>May use books as a transitional object (an object that reassures, calms or comforts)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Names familiar pictures</li> <li>Fills in words of familiar stories</li> <li>"Reads" to dolls or stuffed animals</li> <li>Recites parts of well-known stories</li> <li>Attention span changes, not consistent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relate books to your child's experiences</li> <li>Use books in routines and during bedtime</li> <li>Ask "what's that?" and give your child time to answer</li> <li>Pause and let your child complete the sentence</li> </ul>