

# Enjoying books with your baby

(Birth-18 months)

## Babies love and need books

Reading to your baby and talking about what you are reading is a special time. Picture books work well for babies and many are available as audio books that you and your baby can listen to together. Picture and audio books in your home language also benefit your baby. Reading stories helps your baby learn to talk and to develop an interest in and enjoyment of books.

## Choosing books for your baby

Snuggling up together will help your young baby feel cosy and safe as they hear you read. Choose books with bright colours like red and yellow and with high-contrast colours like black and white. Babies also love books with pictures of real faces, especially those of other babies. These types of books are easier for young babies (under 6 months) to see and will grab their attention.

Once babies can sit up and can handle books themselves, they like 'lift-the-flap' books. They will enjoy the surprise and will soon have their favourites. Be sure to talk to your baby about the pictures and describe what is happening as some books have few words and the detail is in the pictures. Make sure your baby can take part by, for example, pointing to things or helping to turn the pages.

Look for books that give you a chance to talk about your family life. Remember, this includes books with animals and imaginary characters and their family stories. Put on different voices for characters in the story. It may take a few readings before your baby can follow the story, so reading the same book regularly is a good idea.

## Playing with books

Babies also love to play with and explore books so have some books that are easy to reach, hold, look at, and even chew. Books made of cloth, books for the bath or sturdy cardboard books are great for babies to handle by themselves.



## Reading at bedtime

While reading with your baby can happen anytime during the day, bedtime reading is perfect for winding down. Your baby will be less interested in handling the book and more likely to want to listen to you softly reading a story. Choose calm, relaxing stories for bedtime and more exciting, interactive stories for daytime reading. Above all, enjoy reading together!

## Suggested list of books to read with babies

Dr Mary Roche (education consultant and author of 'Developing Children's Critical Thinking through Picturebooks') has made a list of some books that your baby might enjoy. There are many other books available, so have a look in the children's section of your local library for similar books. Take a look at the list of books for toddlers as older babies might enjoy these too.

<b>All of baby - nose to toes</b> (2011) by Victoria Adler*	<b>Monster Food</b> (2020) by Daisy Hirst
<b>Daddy</b> (2021) by Leslie Patricelli	<b>Goodnight Moon</b> (2007) by Margaret Wise Brown*
<b>Mummy</b> (2021) by Leslie Patricelli	<b>Heads, shoulders, knees and toes</b> (2002) by Annie Kubler*
<b>Hug! 20th Anniversary Edition</b> (2020) by Jez Alborough*	<b>Global babies</b> (2007) by The Global Fund for Children
<b>Mo Chuid Amhráin Ghaeilge</b> (2020) by Risteard Mac Liam*	<b>Sleep, My Bunny</b> (2019) by Rosemary Wells*
<b>Am Folctha, a Choinín Bheag!</b> (2021) by Jorg Mühle	<b>Full, Full, Full of Love</b> (2020) by Trish Cooke*
<b>Babáí Cathal: Am Dul a Luí</b> (2018) by Anne Paradis	<b>Ducky's Bathtime</b> (2020) by Lucy Cousins
<b>My First Book of Ireland</b> (2020) by The O'Brien Press	<b>Maisy's first flap book</b> (2001) by Lucy Cousins
<b>Wiggle, Walk, Wash! Baby's First Animals</b> (2021) by Elliot Kruszynski	<b>Splish, Splash Ducky!</b> (2020) by Lucy Cousins
<b>Night, Night</b> (2019) by Mojca Dolinar	<b>Moo moo: can you say it too?</b> (2014) by Sebastian Braun*
<b>Round and Round the Garden: A First Book of Nursery Rhymes</b> (2021) by Shirley Hughes	<b>My first book of things to see</b> (2013) by Little Tiger Press
<b>Monsters Play... Peekaboo!</b> (2021) by Flavia Z. Drago	<b>Noisy Peekaboo series</b> (2010) by DK Children

\* Available as an audio book



**Don't Worry, Little Crab** (2021) by Chris Haughton\*

**Orange pear apple bear** (2006) by Emily Gravett\*

**Making Faces** (2017) by Abrams Appleseed\*

**Peek-a-who** (2000) by Nina Laden\*

**Down on the Farm** (2018) by Dawn Alsept

**Peepo** (2011) by Janet and Allan Ahlberg\*

**Quiet loud** (2003) by Leslie Patricelli\*

**Tickle tickle** (1999) by Helen Oxenbury\*

**Ten little fingers and ten little toes** (2010) by Mem Fox\*

**Where is baby's bellybutton?** (2000) by Karen Katz

**Where is the green sheep?** (2009) by Mem Fox\*

**Where is Spot?** (2003) by Eric Hill

**The wheels on the bus** (2001) by Annie Kubler\*

**Where's Mrs Car?** (2021) by Ingela P Arrhenius

**Where's Mrs Doctor?** (2021) by Ingela P. Arrhenius

**Love Makes a Family** (2021) by Sophie Beer\*

\* Available as an audio book