

# READ, SING, TALK, PLAY...A FAMILY AFFAIR!

## READING TIPS FOR BABIES

Very young babies love to hear you voice. You can read anything to them, but they especially like nursery rhymes and other stories with set rhymes.

- Choose board books with simple, bright pictures against solid backgrounds.
- As babies become interested in what's inside the book, read books with bright pictures of animals, babies, and familiar objects. Talk about the objects in the book.
- As babies begin to talk, read books that invite them to repeat rhymes, words, and phrases.
- When older babies want to join in, read books with textures, things to touch, flaps to flip, tabs to pull, and holes where they can poke their fingers.



**Most of all, fit reading into your daily routine. Not only will this introduce reading as an important life skill, but also will allow you to spend some quality time together. Reading with drama and expression (i.e., different voices for different characters, louder tone if someone is yelling, softer tone if someone is whispering, sad voice if someone is sad) helps children learn to read as they talk (with fluency).**

Enjoy this rhyme with your baby:

### **Three Ticks by Dennis Lee**

Pizza, pickle,  
Pumpnickel  
My little guy  
Shall have a tickle:

One for his nose,  
And one for his toes,  
And one for his tummy  
Where the hotdog goes.

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