

Early Literacy Milestones

Babies and Toddlers

Birth to Six Months:

- * Soothed by the sound of your voice as you read
- * Rhythmic sound of songs and rhymes will become familiar
- * Will begin to recognize a song or rhyme if repeated often
- * By four months shows interest in books
- * Will enjoy story time at your local library

Six to Twelve Months:

- * Babbles and repeats sounds you make while reading
- * Watches your face as you read
- * Reaches and tries to grasp the book
- * Reaches out to touch pictures
- * Explores by putting books in mouth
- * Throws books (for now)
- * Tries to turn the pages of board book
- * Looks at the pictures
- * Will want to read familiar books over and over
- * Will enjoy story time at your local library

Twelve to Eighteen Months:

- * Enjoys being read to
- * Looks at picture books with you
- * Points to pictures with finger
- * Holds book
- * Turns board book pages, several at a time
- * May make the same sound you make for a picture, such as "moo" for a cow
- * Hands book to someone to read
- * Holds book with assistance
- * Holds book right side up
- * Will want to read familiar books over and over
- * Will enjoy story time at your local library

Eighteen to Twenty Four Months:

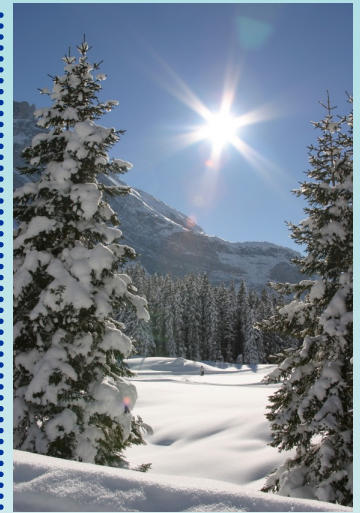
- * Names familiar pictures and words
- * Turns pages one at a time
- * Pretends to read to self or toys
- * Carries books
- * Recites familiar parts of stories
- * Longer attention span
- * Will want to read familiar books over and over
- * Will enjoy story time at your local library

Twenty Four to Thirty Six Months:

- * Recognizes familiar signs and logos—stop sign, McDonalds
- * Remembers familiar stories
- * Learns to hold and turn pages of paper books
- * Searches within books to find favorite pictures or stories
- * Notices when a parent misses a word in a familiar story
- * May use story words in everyday experiences: when going to bed she might say, "Goodnight Moon."
- * Know there is a front and a back to books
- * Creates pictures in his mind while listening to reading
- * Will want to read familiar books over and over
- * Will enjoy story time at your local library

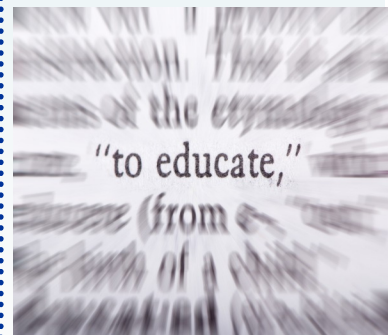
Preschoolers:

- * Listens to longer stories
- * Handles books with care
- * Creates sentences, using five to eight words
- * Is aware of print, as in grocery lists, menus and foods packaging
- * Generates rhymes: cat, hat, sat, mat, bat
- * By five, recognizes all the letters of the alphabet
- * Realizes words start with a sound, mmmm -M for Mommy
- * Recognizes letters in her name
- * Recognizes there are little and big letters
- * Recognizes simple site words-it, the, she, he,
- * Learns books have a title, author and illustrator
- * Will want to read familiar books over and over
- * Will enjoy story time at your local library



A Fascinating Journey Awaits

Open your child's imagination! Open a book! Your local library can be an alluring adventure. What will story time be like? What special programming will be offered? What books will she choose? Revel in their curiosity. Pour over the numerous books and ex-



cite her mind as you read through the words and explore the pictures together.

Feeling of Pride

Does your child have his own library card? Receiving a library card is incredibly rewarding. It will allow your child to have a feeling of ownership, responsibility and pride.

Sign up for a card today!



The Good the Bad and the Ugly of Television

There is much to be said about Television. We use it as entertainment by watching, game shows, sitcoms and movies. We learn from watching news, history and wildlife programming. We use it as a device to pacify our children.

Some childcare providers use it as a way to entertain the kids. Some households have several



televisions while others have none. Anyway you look at it, there are good, bad and ugly views based upon research and speculation. Your pediatrician may have

told you to limit the amount of television you allow your child to watch. A reason for this is the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that kids under 2 years of age not watch television of any kind and children older than 2 watch no more than 1 to 2 hours a day of quality programming. Why is the AAP sending out this vital message?

Where to begin? Let's start with the fact that too much exposure to television is connected to language delays and attention problems. Reduction of speech within

the home is considerable. Infants vocalize less and caregivers speak less to the child, although it is still unclear why. Leaving the television on in the background has implications to cause harm as well. Just the sound of a television may cause lower language acquisition and brain development.

Children who spend a significant amount of time watching television are not being read to enough and have a more difficult time paying attention, which in turn leads to a lack of comprehension (an understanding of what the story is about). Reading allows your child to explore the endless avenues of imagination. For example,

as you're reading to your child, she might be creating her own version of what Goldilocks looks like to her. She may also be imagining the Three Little Pigs outfoxing the Big Bad Wolf. Television not only feeds the images to your child, it hinders her from creating the images for herself.

Studies have shown parents are the most important factor in a child's life. Your child will learn and comprehend more from time spent with you than any educational programming.

SPEND TIME WITH YOUR CHILD!

Keeping the Right Balance

Keeps kids engaged

- Talk with your child
- Read
- Make up stories
- Do crafts
- Games
- Puzzles
- Color
- Draw
- Go outside
- Be active
- Do science experiments
- Sing
- Make up songs
- Play Music
- Family meals time
- Choose age appropriate programming.

Limit Television

- No TV in the car
- No TV during dinner
- No TV in children's room
- Don't use TV as a reward or punishment
- Don't use TV as a baby-sitter
- No TV for babies under age two
- Two hours or less of screen time for children over two
- Screen time includes DVDs, video games and computers.

Games to Play in the Car

Alphabet Game: Take turns trying to find all the letters of the alphabet on road signs, billboards and license plates.

Story Maker: Someone starts off a story with something like, "One day I was walking alone in the woods." The next person continues the story, adding the next sentence, "It was cold and snowy." And so on.

Animal sounds: You make animal sounds while your child guesses what animal you are.

Color Game: When you see a yellow car say, "Beep-Beep." When you see a red car say, "Meow." Make up your own silly words for different colors of cars.

A Few Cautionary Words

Television has been shown to:

- ❄ Create an increased sense of fear
- ❄ Create a false sense of reality
- ❄ Lead to aggressive behavior
- ❄ Children experienced less socialization with more TV watched
- ❄ Cause children to become overweight, due to sedentary activity

Raising A Reader & Mammoth Library
 PO Box 1120, 400 Sierra Park Road
 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
 760-934-8670 x174 Taylor Kumlue
 760-934-4777 main phone
 760-934-6268 fax
 tkumlue@monocoe.k12.ca.us



Funded by: Mono County Library and Mono County Office of Education