

## **15** Read Aloud Tips for Babies and Toddlers

Research shows that reading aloud with children is the single most important thing you can do to prepare a child for reading and learning. Read Aloud 15 MINUTES National Campaign promotes parents reading aloud to their children at least 15 minutes every day starting at birth. First Book and Read Aloud 15 MINUTES have created a 15-title collection of books that are wonderful for reading aloud with very young children.

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. Begin your child's journey of learning today!

**1**

**Get excited! This is going to be fun! Enthusiasm is infectious, make sure your child catches it.**

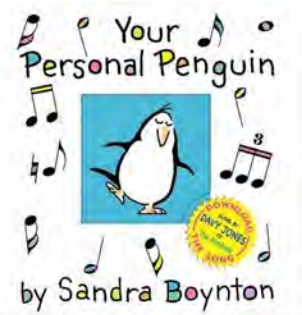
“Dinosaur wins again!” - Dinosaur vs. The Potty by Bob Shea



**2**

**Read with expression. Go ahead! Use voices. Do sound effects. Make a fool of yourself... your child will love it.**

“I want to be your personal penguin. I want to walk right by your side.” - Your Personal Penguin by Sandra Boynton



**3**

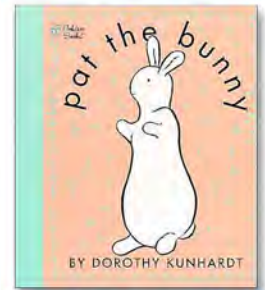
**Point to the pictures, and talk about them. Make them relatable: “Hey! That looks just like your toy train.”**

“Red caboose at the back. Orange tank car next...” - Freight Train by Donald Crews



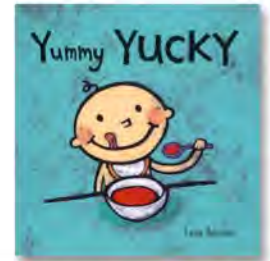


**4** Even a squirmy worm may be listening. Babies are grabby. Give them their own book to hold or something to gnaw on while you read.



“Judy can pat the bunny. Now YOU pat the bunny.” - Pat the Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt

**5** Hungry baby? Multitask. It's OK - and sometimes advisable - to offer snacks, nurse, or bottlefeed while reading aloud.



“Spaghetti is YUMMY. Worms are YUCKY.” -Yummy Yucky by Leslie Patricelli

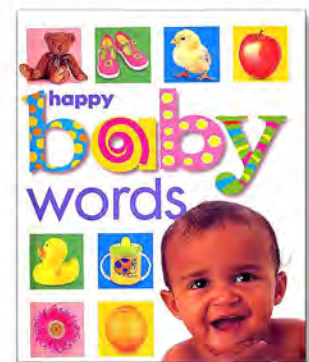
**6** If Mr. or Ms. Grabby Pants thwarts your best efforts, then sing, do finger plays, recite Mother Goose... And try, try again (later).



“Well, she had no choice. Trixie bawled. She went boneless. She did everything she could to show how unhappy she was.”

-Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

**7** Let your child turn the pages, if he or she can. And over time, your child will learn which end of the book is up, that the letters are the things you are reading, that text flows from left to right...



**8** Awesome pictures. Find books that have them.

“It was kitten’s first full moon. When she saw it, she thought, There’s a little bowl of milk in the sky. And she wanted it.” -Kitten’s First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes





9

**Little ones love rhyming, word play and songs – provide a healthy diet of books that feature them, and see how babies gain language.**



“And both of these babies, as everyone knows, had ten little fingers and ten little toes!” -Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox

---

10

**Short, simple board books are great for babies. In fact, some of the best books have hardly any words at all.**

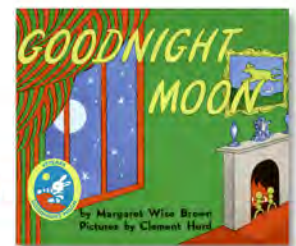


“Goodnight, Gorilla.” -Goodnight Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

---

11

**Make reading aloud a habit when your baby is wee. Incorporate it into your daily routine, and it may soon become a treasured part of your day.**



“Goodnight stars. Goodnight air. Goodnight noises everywhere.”  
-Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

---

12

**Provide variety, but be prepared for repetition. A range of books with different authors and topics is fantastic – but don't be surprised when baby wants the same beloved book over and over... and over.**



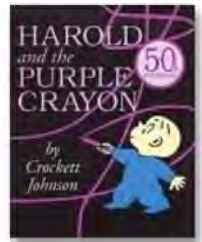
“Then he nibbled a hole in the cocoon, pushed his way out and... he was a beautiful butterfly!” -The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle



13

**Books, books everywhere and lots of stuff to read. Nurture a reader: Make books an accessible part of your child’s environment.**

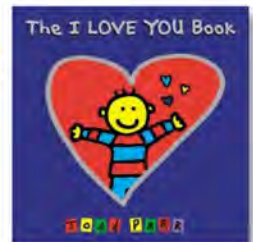
“He remembered where his bedroom window was, when there was a moon.” -Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson



14

**When reading aloud, find a comfortable spot where you won’t doze off or be overly distracted.**

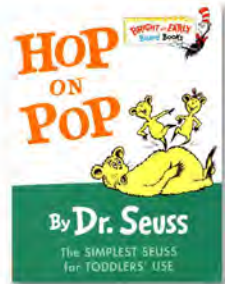
“I love you when you are silly.” -The I Love You Book by Todd Parr



15

**Practice makes perfect – for the listener and the reader. The more you do it, the easier it will be.**

“My father can read big words, too. Like CONSTANTINOPE and TIMBUKTU!” -Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss



Get these and other great books on the First Book Marketplace, an online resource available exclusively to educators and programs serving children in need.



**Read Aloud  
15 MINUTES**

Every child. Every parent. Every day.

Find more tips and advice about reading aloud 15 minutes every day, from birth, at [ReadAloud.org](http://ReadAloud.org).



[www.fbmarketplace.org](http://www.fbmarketplace.org)