



Lilly
recommends...

Fun Reading Ideas

Babies

- Read every day with your baby. Talk about the pictures and name what you see.
- Give your baby clean board books to explore. For a young baby—chewing is reading!
- Practice tracking with your baby. Hold an interesting object in your baby's field of vision and move the object slowly around. Play until your baby tires of playing.
- When out and about with your baby, point to and read signs—store names, street signs, billboards, etc.
- Place a few interesting items on the floor and lie down with your baby to the right of the items. One at a time, pick up an item from the left and move it from left to right saying, "the apple is on the left and goes all the way over to the right". Repeat with each item. (This is practice for reading from left to right.)
- Take a trip to your local library. Walk up and down the stacks with your baby. Show them the books and talk about what a library has to offer.
- Look at photographs of farm animals (or use a farm animal book) and make the sound the animal makes.

Toddlers

- Give your child opportunities to explore shapes—blocks, balls, boxes, curves, etc.
- Cuddling is very important for toddler's social/emotional development. Reading together is a perfect time to cuddle! Plus, it surrounds reading time with positive feelings.
- Gather up some items—small toys, household items, crayons, markers etc.—and ask your child to sort them by color. Mix them up and then have your child sort them by size. Talk together about your child's choices and why they made them.
- When reading a familiar book with your toddler, periodically ask them what is happening on the page and encourage them to use as many words as you can to describe the page.
- Encourage your child to begin turning the pages of a book.
- Read a simple alphabet book together.
- Books are excellent vocabulary builders. Not only will your child hear many new words when reading, but the pictures in books give toddlers a perfect opportunity to practice identifying objects. For example, "Where is the tiger? Can you point to the tiger? Right! Very good. That is a striped black and orange tiger."



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Fun Reading Ideas

Preschoolers

- Write your child's name on a piece of construction paper. Give them some glitter glue or markers or crayons and encourage them to decorate their name. Once it is dry, place tracing paper over it and encourage your child to copy their name.
- Spread some play dough or bread dough on the table and shape the first letters of your name, your child's name, and the names of family members.
- Gather identical pairs of grocery items—two cans of black beans, two jars of jam, two boxes of baking soda etc. Place one item on a low shelf and its matching item on the floor across the kitchen. Encourage your child to take one item at a time and place it on the shelf with its matching twin. This encourages children to look for 'like' things.
- When reading a story with your child. Choose one unusual word. After you have finished the book, discuss the word with your child. What does it mean? If it's a thing, what does it look like? Where might you find it? Try using the word in your conversation during the day.
- Talk together about words that you like. Perhaps you like the sound of them or perhaps you like what they mean. Let your child choose a word. Write it on a piece of cardboard and cut the cardboard into three puzzle pieces. Mix them up on the table and encourage your child to put them together to spell the word.
- Introduce different sorts of reading material to your child—phone books, computers, cookbooks, maps, manuals, cereal boxes, etc. Talk about what the writing tells us about the items and how they are useful.
- Read a book together and talk about the fact that someone wrote the book and that that person is called an author. Ask your child if they have any ideas for a book of their own.
- When you are out on a walk or out driving, point out and read street signs. Look for and point out signs and labels in stores and buildings. Talk about why the signs/labels are there.
- Check out a wordless book from the library and encourage your child to 'read' it to you. The ability to use the pictures to help understand a story will help children once they begin to learn to read.
- Using a piece of colored paper, cut out many shapes—several circles, several squares, several triangles, several rectangles, several rhombuses etc. Mix these all together and encourage your child to sort them into like piles—all the circles together, all the squared together etc. Talk together about how they made their sorting decisions.
- Work together with your child on putting together an age-appropriate puzzle.
- If the weather is nice, spread a blanket outside, bring out many books and have a 'book picnic' outside. If the weather is not good for outdoors time, spread a blanket on the floor with pillows and have your picnic inside.