

## Learning Words and Book Handling Skills

What does my baby learn when I read to her?

- New words
- What things are called (labeling)
- How a book works



How do I read a book to my baby?

- Hold a book & your baby together. Cradle the baby in your arms or on your lap.
- Lie on your back or stomach with the baby and hold the book for the baby to see.
- Teach the baby how a book works by opening it, turning the pages, and closing it.

What books should I read to my baby?

- Books with no words that are made of strong cardboard with rounded corners. This is so that the baby can handle the book without getting hurt or hurting the book!
- Books with pictures that have big shapes in black and white. These are good because babies can't see colors until they are 2-3 months old. They need clear lines and big pictures too!

How do I read a book with no words?

- Describe things in the book and how they relate to your baby's life. *"Look at the picture of the toy. Where's your favorite toy?"* By doing this, you will teach your baby new words. Even if they can't talk yet, they are learning to understand you.
- Use your imagination to make up your own story about the book you are reading.
- Use your native language – the language you speak best.
- Remember that wordless books are great for infants and toddlers, too!

What's normal for my baby?

- Putting the book in her mouth.
- Grabbing or throwing the book (you can give her something else to hold).
- Wanting to stop reading or wanting to read only a little at a time. Try again later!

EXAMPLE BOOK: Black on White by Tana Hoban