

Playing with the Sounds of Language

What does my toddler learn when I read to him?

- To play with the sounds of language
- New vocabulary words
- To have fun and enjoy reading!



- ✓ Did you know that all babies make the same sounds until they are 4 months old? Then they start to make sounds of their own language.

How do I read a book to my toddler?

- Hold the child on your lap and have the child hold the book with your help.
- Let the child open the pages himself.
- Ask your child lots of questions, and encourage him to ask you questions, too! For example: “*What animal is that?*” “*Can you guess who’s coming next?*” “*How many of them can you count?*” “*What colors do you see on this page?*”

What books should I read with my toddler?

- Books with bright colors and things to count.
- Books with words that repeat the same letters, sounds, and words.
- Rhyming books (especially in your home language).
- Books that are made of cardboard, especially for 1-2 year olds. It’s easier for them to hold and they won’t rip all the pages.

What’s normal for my toddler?

- Wanting to hear the same stories over and over again.
- Making up their own words with lots of sounds – “baa laa naa laa naa”
- Wanting a routine for reading – after dinner, for example, or before they go to bed.
- Reading the first couple of pages and then not being interested. (Try again later!)

EXAMPLE BOOK: Hug By Jez Alborough