

What Young Children Like in Books

Infants 0-6 months

- Books with simple, large pictures or designs with bright colors
- Stiff cardboard, “chunky” books, or fold out books that can be propped up in the crib.
- Cloth and soft vial books with simple pictures of people or familiar objects that can join the bath or get washed.

Infants 6-12 months

- Board books with photos of other babies.
- Brightly colored “chunky” board books to touch and taste!
- Books with photos of familiar objects like balls and bottles.
- Books with sturdy pages that can be propped up or spread out in the crib or on a blanket.
- Plastic/vinyl books for bath time.
- Washable cloth books to cuddle and mouth
- Small plastic photo albums of family and friends.

Young Toddlers 12-24 months

- Sturdy board books that they can carry.
- Books with photos of children doing familiar things like sleeping or playing.
- Goodnight books for bed time.
- Books about saying hello and good-bye.
- Books with only a few words on each page.
- Books with simple rhymes or predictable text.
- Animal Books of all sizes and shapes.

Toddlers 2-3 years

- Books that tell simple stories.
- Simple rhyming books that they can memorize.
- Bed time books
- Books about counting, the alphabet, shapes, or sizes.
- Animal books, vehicle books, books about playtime.
- Books with their favorite TV characters inside.



Thank you to the following for their support:

Local School Districts and Early Learning Centers

Wellspan Ephrata Community Hospital

Lancaster General Hospital

Early Childhood Innovative Connections

United Way

Popovsky Performing Arts Studio



The Brain & Literacy

By age 3, 85% of a child's core brain structure is formed, but less than 4% of public educational funds are dedicated to this period.

(Schiavelli & Benchoff, 2001)

The Brain: Birth to Three

- 1. The brain can create more Synapses than it needs**
- 2. The Synapses that are used a lot become permanent**
- 3. The Synapses that are not used frequently are eliminated**

“Recent research suggests that while we are asleep, our brain is actively processing the day’s information. It sifts through recently formed memories, copying, and filing them so that they will be more useful the next day. A preschooler should be getting nine to ten hours of sleep each day.”

Outside Influences That Help to Wire the Brain

1. The scent of the mother’s skin (smell)
2. The father’s voice (hearing)
3. Seeing a face or brightly colored toy (vision)
4. The feel of a hand gently caressing (touch)
5. Drinking milk (taste)

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Experience plays an important role in the wiring of a young brain. We need to provide many positive social and learning opportunities so that the synapses associated with these experience become permanent. The child’s experiences are the stimulation that sparks the activity between axons and dendrites and then create the needed synapses.