

Build A Library

While I was pregnant with my son, I taught at a local elementary school. My co-workers gave me a unique and wonderful baby shower. A **Book Shower!** Everyone gave the gift of his or her favorite children's book. Fairy tales, board books, books with stuffed animal characters, Newbery and Caldecott award winners, and more! Some stories were for babies, and others were appropriate for older children. It was a book lover's dream and today, my children are STILL enjoying the gifts I received way back then!

The **Book Shower** is one way to start building a library for a family. There are other ways to do this as well. Read on for additional ideas.

- **Baby's Firsts** – There are a lot of cute stories that are about baby's first milestones: tooth, holiday, friend, steps, words, etc. Start a book collection of **your** child's firsts and include dated notations in the books regarding your child's accomplishments of these tasks.
- **Birthday Book** - Instead of buying yet another toy for this monumental day, purchase a new book. Many books now come with activity kits, puppets, art extension ideas, etc. For an extra special touch, add a bookmark or calligraphy-written nameplate!
- **Holiday Books** – Get one new book each year about a special holiday your family celebrates! Store these books in a box and only take them out during that holiday. Your youngsters will eagerly look for them at the same time each year!
- **Play Group Book Swaps** – Many new parents begin to socialize their young toddlers with other same-aged youngsters in *playgroups*. Why not spend a portion of this playtime sharing and swapping favorite books?
- **Garage Sales** – If you're in the market for new books, but don't want to spend a lot, garage sales are the way to go! Often, children's books will be priced in the .05 to .25 range. Twenty books for five dollars is a steal!