

What Does Toddler Reading Look Like?

Reading with toddlers happens during quick teachable moments throughout the day. Remember to sneak a few of these into your daily routines.

- Finger pointing – As you read a story together, hold your child's finger and run it under the words you are saying. This will eventually lead to an understanding of the one-to-one correspondence between the written and spoken word.
- Photographs – Take pictures of family members, friends, and objects that are important to your child. Mount the pictures on colored construction paper and write the names under them. Use them as flashcards by encouraging your child to name the pictures. Staple or tie them together to create a book.
- Board book page turning – Hold board books while you read to your child. When it's time to turn the page, allow the next page to pop up by pushing the front and back covers down. Watch as your toddler naturally reaches to turn it.
- Crayon scribbling – Give your youngster a large pad of paper and a lot of crayons. There is no agenda here except to encourage your little learner to scribble. You will begin to notice handedness, but make sure not to force a lefty to be a righty. Model the proper grip if necessary.
- Tactile Writing – Show your toddler how to write letters or words in the sand at the beach. No beach? No problem! Write letters in a pile of shaving cream or rice.
- Front and back. Left to right. Up and down. Give a book to your toddler to see how he or she holds it. Correct if it's upside down or if they are turning the pages incorrectly. Point out starting and ending places when reading.
- "The end!" Whenever you finish reading a story with your little one, close the book and say emphatically, "The end!!" Follow that up with, "All done!"
- Inflection. Possibly one of the most important elements of reading to toddlers is the inflection and characterization of your voice. Charismatic reading engages active little ones and promotes enjoyment.



Skill Set: Reading With Baby & Toddler
Family Reading Activity Series
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