



kids therapy made simple

# Early Literacy Development

## Literacy and Language Skills

Have you ever thought about why you are supposed to read to your infant? Will they really understand what you're saying? Can they even make out what the pictures are showing? Isn't it all just a waste of time?

Actually, no. Research has shown that early language acquisition and emergent literacy are linked as they both influence and facilitate the other. One of the easiest ways to engage in and positively influence your child's early language acquisitions and emergent literary skills is through shared book reading.

As you are the primary communication partner for your child, interactive shared book reading gives you the opportunity to create a positive language environment. Exposure to increased verbal interaction combined with the presentation of printed books and letter knowledge at an early age has been shown to positively impact a child's overall development of language and literacy.

## Language vs. Literacy



### Language Acquisition

- spoken language • vocabulary • comprehension
- inferencing abilities • sound development

### Literacy Skills

- turning pages • learning that printed words have meaning



## Secrets to Interactive Shared Book Reading

The real secret to interactive shared book reading is BE GOOFY. Have fun with your child while you're reading. Use exaggerated voices to highlight different characters or important parts of the text. This is great for building your child's ability to read others' facial expressions. Make it engaging so that reading with you is enjoyable and so that your child will want to read with you more often.

## Shared Book Reading with Different Ages



5 months	child can distinguish two-dimensional pictures from objects.
6 months	child is able to maintain joint attention(both you and your child are looking and interacting with the same thing) on objects and pictures.
9 months	child will begin to explore pictures by grasping and scratching at them.
15 months	child will point at pictures and explore books themselves (e.g. turning the book, opening and closing the book, turning the pages, etc.)
19 months	child is able to point to pictures in the book to demonstrate understanding.