

# Reading With Babies



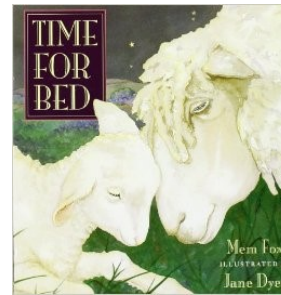
## 0-6 MONTHS OLD

### What to Do:

- Leave books in baby's reach.
- Let baby touch the books and put them into his/her mouth.
- Talk about the pictures and that interest your baby.
- Let your baby turn the pages.
- Change your voice; use lots of expression and have fun!!
- Sing with your baby.



### Baby Faces



### For Young Babies Choose:

- Bright colourful books with simple, large photos or pictures of people, animals or household objects.
- Cardboard or fold out books to prop up in front of your baby.
- Cloth and soft vinyl books.
- Touchy-feely books (with textures you can feel).
- Books with tags, tabs and other parts that baby can play with.

## Should I Try to Read the Whole Story?

At this age, **don't worry about reading the whole book from front to back!**

It's ok to just talk about the pictures.

If you want to read the whole story, a nice time would be when your baby is in a swing, bouncy seat or crib or at bedtime. It encourages bonding and quiet time for you and your baby. Share an old favourite of yours or try one of these bedtime books:

*“Goodnight Moon” by Margaret Wise Brown, “Time for Bed” by Mem Fox, “The Bedtime Book” by Sandra Boynton, “Guess How Much I Love You” by Sam McBratney, “Love You Forever” by Robert Munsch.*



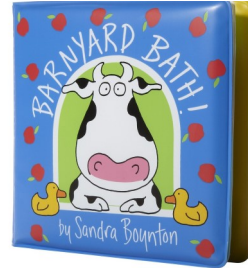
# Reading With Babies



## 6-12 MONTHS OLD

### What Is Baby Doing ?

- Reaches for books
- Puts book to mouth
- Turns pages with help
- Looks at pictures; may start to pat pictures or point to them
- Makes sounds & noises while looking at pictures
- Sits in lap, head steady
- Loves pictures of faces



### For Young Babies Choose:

- Board books with pictures of other babies.
- Thick and sturdy, brightly-coloured board books.
- Books with pictures of familiar objects like toys.
- Books that can be propped up or spread out.
- Plastic or vinyl books for bath time.
- Washable cloth books to cuddle and chew/mouth.
- Small plastic photo albums of family and friends.
- Books for teething with rubber to chew.

## What Can You Do With Your Baby?

- You don't have to read the whole story. Talk about the pictures and about the things that interest your baby.
- Feel like they don't stay on a page long enough to talk about the pictures? That's ok! Use words like "open", "close", "flip" or "turn" as they move through the book and explore.
- Follow baby's cues for "more" and "stop" (if they are turning away, put the book down and try again later. If they seem to be having fun, keep going!)
- Change your voice; baby loves your voice, so have fun with it!
- Leave books in baby's reach; keep a basket on the floor and change the books every now and then.
- Let your baby touch the books and put them into his/her mouth.
- Let your baby turn the pages; it's ok if they flip back and forth!

