



TOGETHER, WE

READ

Rotary



Save the Children

Ellie Murray / Save the Children

**HELPING OUR
CHILDREN
READ & SUCCEED:
WE ALL HAVE A
ROLE TO PLAY!**

**JOIN US!
TOGETHER WE WILL:**

- Equip and support parents and caregivers to be their child's first teacher.
- Increase children's access to books and exposure to literacy activities at home and in our community.
- Build awareness of the importance of early literacy in our community.

OUR CHILDREN DESERVE A STRONG START FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

We know that babies start learning at birth, and early literacy and language skills are critical factors in school readiness. Sharing books and reading aloud to children starting when they are babies helps them develop language skills and a love of books and learning. Through *Together, We Read*, Rotary and Save the Children are working together in this community to make reading and literacy a central focus.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO:

- Make sure every child has access to high-quality, age-appropriate books.
- Make sharing books and reading a priority for our babies, toddlers and children.
- Help our children succeed in school and life.



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LEARN MORE!
[SAVETHECHILDREN.ORG/ROTARY](https://www.savethechildren.org/rotary)

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, reading a book to a young child with dark skin and hair. The child is smiling and looking at the book. The background is softly blurred.

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TIPS FOR READING TO BABIES

- Children are developing early literacy – or early reading – skills even before they can read. In fact, they are developing early reading skills from birth!
- Parent and caregiver participation is critical to helping children develop early literacy skills.
- Children learn through play and develop a love of books and reading by having stories read to them, and by talking together about books and pictures.
- Young children explore books and reading in many ways – by listening, touching, looking, and playing.

Turn this card over for ideas on how you can develop babies' literacy skills.

HOW TO DEVELOP BABIES' LITERACY SKILLS

Reading to babies is a powerful way to develop both their language and literacy skills and their bond with you. Even in their earliest months, babies show an interest in looking at and exploring books. As you read stories with your baby, he/she develops listening skills, learns new words, and comes to love books.

TRY THIS AT HOME!

Think about ways you can include books as part of your baby's daily routine. Some ideas include reading before a nap or bedtime, or singing songs and telling stories during bath time. Follow your baby's lead. Introduce different kinds of books and see which your baby likes best. Watch how she likes to explore the book. There is no right or wrong way. By following her interest, she will develop a love of books.



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A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a purple top and a necklace, smiling as she reads a book to a young child with blonde hair. The child is looking at the book with a focused expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a library or a community center.

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TIPS FOR READING TO YOUNG TODDLERS

- Children are developing early literacy – or early reading – skills even before they can read. In fact, they are developing early reading skills from birth!
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Turn this card over for ideas on how you can develop toddlers' literacy skills.

HOW TO DEVELOP TODDLERS' LITERACY SKILLS

Toddlers develop a love of reading by sharing books with you. They explore by opening and closing books, pretending to read them, and by looking and pointing at the pictures or making sounds that go along with the pictures (*moooo!*). They also show you that they are beginning to understand that the pictures in books stand for things in real life, for example, when your toddler runs to get a toy truck after you read a book about trucks. And the more you read together, the more your child will learn about—and love—books and reading.

TRY THIS:

Get a library card. Libraries are a fantastic resource. Allow your child to choose some books on her own. When you select books for your child, look for bright, interesting illustrations and a good story. Find books that reflect your child's interests—be it trucks, animals, princesses, or baby siblings.

Make your own books. Cut out a selection of pictures from magazines or catalogs. Spread them out for your toddler and let him choose which pictures to glue (with help) onto sturdy sheets of paper or large index cards. Punch a hole in the corner of each page and tie with a short piece of string or yarn. Write a few words on each page describing the pictures.

Follow your child's lead. You don't have to read every word or even every page to make reading together a positive experience for your child. If your toddler wants to look at one picture for 3 minutes and then skip to the end and put the book down, that's okay. The more positive experiences your child has with reading, the more he/she will seek out books.



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TIPS FOR READING TO PRESCHOOLERS

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Susan Warner / Save the Children

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Turn this card over for ideas on how you can develop preschoolers' literacy skills.

HOW TO DEVELOP PRESCHOOLERS' LITERACY SKILLS

Preschool-aged toddlers are really beginning to understand and appreciate stories and pictures as they move into their third year. They especially enjoy sharing books with you, not only because they love hearing you tell their favorite stories, but also because book-reading provides a great way to grow your relationship. Even though your toddler may act independent and “grown up,” they still see you as number one!

TRY THIS:

Play “Story Order.” Draw three pictures (or take three photos) that show the beginning, middle, and end of an activity. For example, you can take a photo of your child putting toothpaste on her toothbrush, brushing her teeth, and then putting her toothbrush away. Show your child the photos and see whether she can figure out the order the photos should appear. Tell the story of the photos in whatever order she chooses and see whether she can tell what is out of order. Activities such as this one help your child develop “sequencing” skills—the ability to understand the order of a story from beginning, to middle, to end.

Make your own texture book. Have your child glue items with different textures onto pieces of paper, which you then staple together. You may try sandpaper, felt, yarn, aluminum foil, and a rubber band. Then ask your child to touch each one and tell you how it feels. Write his words down on each page.

Make books come alive. Think about the books your child likes the best. How can you help bring those books into your child's daily life? For example, if your child loves books about animals, take a trip to a local pet store, visit a farm, or just take a walk together looking for animals such as dogs and squirrels. If your child's favorite is a book about pirates, make a pirate ship out of a big cardboard box and “set sail” together. When children apply their book learning to real life, it enriches their understanding of both.



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