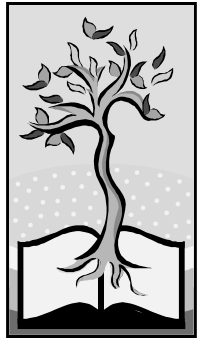






*Parents
are their
children's
first and most
important
teachers...*








LOOK INSIDE
for things you can do
NOW to help your child
be ready for kindergarten
LATER!





Recommended Toys & Books





Birth—8 months:

-  My First Mother Goose
-  The Lullabye Songbook
-  Goodnight Moon
-  Max's First Word

-  Musical Mobile
-  Toy Telephones
-  Baby Mirror
-  Cloth & Board Books
-  Building & Sorting Toys

8—18 months:

-  Finger Rhymes
-  Green Eggs and Ham
-  Peter's Chair
-  Will I Have A Friend?

-  Puzzles
-  Drawing Boards
-  Fat, washable crayons
-  Board Books

**Check out your local
library for books and activities
designed to encourage
early learning!**

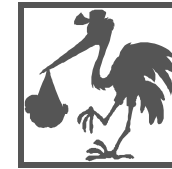
(804) 979-7151, ext 300

For more information on
community resources, contact:

United Way
Information & Referral
(804) 972-1703

Support for these brochures was
provided by Charlottesville/Albemarle
Commission on Children and Families

GETTING READY...



From Here

To There



A Parent's Guide To Encouraging Early Learning For Your Newborn—18 Month Child

Provided by the
Early Literacy Work Group
of the
*Partnership for Children
of Charlottesville/Albemarle*
(804) 296-4118

Language

Reading

Writing

What Your Child Is Doing

- ★ Newborn — Listens to voices and sounds
- ★ 2-4 Months — Starts by babbling with two syllables
- ★ 4-6 Months — Begins to imitate sounds
- ★ 6-12 Months — Responds to own name
- ★ Begins to say “mama” or “dada” and 1-2 other words
- ★ 12-18 Months — Can generally use 15-30 words
- ★ Talks in 2-word sentences

- ★ Newborn — Looks at colorful objects and faces
- ★ 1-4 Months — Follows moving objects with eyes
- ★ 4-8 Months — Begins to recognize difference between self and objects
- ★ 8-12 Months — Searches for hidden objects
- ★ 12-18 Months — Points to objects being named
- ★ Can listen to simple stories of a few sentences and likes repetition

- ★ 3 Months — Reaches for objects
- ★ 4 Months — Sits with support
- ★ 5 Months — Sits on lap and grasps objects
- ★ 6 Months — Can grasp objects with thumb and 4 fingers
- ★ 7 Months — Sits alone
- ★ 12 Months — Holds object with thumb and 2 fingers
- ★ 15 Months — Can turn pages of a board book
- ★ Can hold and use fat crayons to scribble

What You Can Do

- ♥ Talk, sing, and read often to your child
- ♥ Encourage babbling by repeating your baby’s sounds
- ♥ Let your child hear the voices of different people
- ♥ Use your child’s name when you talk to him or her
- ♥ Teach your child words by naming items as you use them and talking during daily tasks
- ♥ Play games with your child like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- ♥ Listen to your child and praise his attempts at speech

- ♥ Read to your child every day
- ♥ Show enthusiasm when you read
- ♥ Point to the pictures as you talk about them
- ♥ Use different voices for each character
- ♥ Let your child help to choose the books and turn the pages
- ♥ Place books with other toys so that your child can reach them
- ♥ Choose books about everyday activities and relate them to your child’s activities
- ♥ Let your child help cook. Read the recipe out loud and let your child add ingredients.

- ♥ Newborns — Provide toys of different textures, shapes, and colors
- ♥ Place your baby where he or she can be with and watch other children and adults and observe reading and writing activities
- ♥ 12-18 Months — Give your baby fat, washable crayons and allow them to scribble on paper that is taped to the table.
- ♥ Proudly display your child’s drawings and attempts at writing on the refrigerator.

It’s OK If:

- ☺ Your child starts to talk earlier or later than others. Children learn on their own timetable.
- ☺ Likes the same story over and over. Babies learn through repetition.

- ☺ Teethes on books or handles them roughly at first. Babies treat books like toys.
- ☺ Quickly loses interest or is easily distracted when you read. Skip to a favorite page.

- ☺ Your child scribbles and/or only makes marks on the paper. His ability to handle the crayon will come with time.
- ☺ Doesn’t hold the crayon in the typical “pencil” fashion.