



CHILD CARE OPTIONS
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ARTICLES & ACTIVITIES

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Choosing Books for Infants and Toddlers

We know that reading to a baby is a great way to soothe and comfort, build loving bonds, and introduce the language sounds that will lead to speech. Once we have the two essential books in any child's library GOODNIGHT MOON and a beautifully illustrated copy of MOTHER GOOSE where do we go from there? For infants and toddlers we need to choose books that will delight the senses, expand and explain the world around them, develop their imagination, and help build language and other basic skills.

A collection for baby could include the MAISY books by Lucy Cousins for their bold colourful illustrations and simple stories. Other titles to share with baby include the following:

- BABIES by Rod Campbell because babies love babies.
- TIME FOR BED by Mem Fox with lyrical language and luscious illustrations.
- MY FIRST WORD BOOK by Angela Wilkes (the game of point and label is a satisfying way to build vocabulary)
- PEEK-A-BOO by Jan Ormerod and
- WHERE'S SPOT by Eric Hill are interactive sturdy flap books for hide and seek fun.
- BARNYARD DANCE by Sandra Boynton and
- SKIP TO MY LOU by Nadine Westcott and
- ONE DUCK STUCK by Phyllis Root are delightful stories to sing and chant.

Toddlers are ready for a simple story with a basic plot and lively illustrations that extend the story. Favourites include:

- SNORE and WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT by Michael Rosen

- BIG RED BARN by Margaret Wise Brown
- JAZZY IN THE JUNGLE by Lucy Cousins
- GO DOG GO by P.D. Eastman
- DUCK IN THE TRUCK by Jez Alborough
- MR. GUMPY'S OUTING by John Burningham
- THE BIG RED BUS by Judy Hindley

Choose books that you can read with enthusiasm and emotion. Children will learn that books are objects to enjoy. This will lay the foundation for a love of books and learning to read on their own.