Music for Babies and Toddlers

Aside from being fun, singing songs and hearing music with your baby/toddler helps them develop rhythm and hear words being broken up into smaller sounds. Later this skill helps with reading. Some of the CDs below use repetition and a slower pace to reinforce the music and words.

Animals at the Farm—Animales de la Granja J636.2A
Baby Sleep: 24 Tracks to Soothe You into Slumber J782.421B
Baby-O! J796.13S
Classical Music Playtime J613.7P
Come and Make a Circle J796.13C
Diaper Gym: Fun Activities for Babies on the Move J796.13D
Dream: Lullabies and Love Songs 783.421R
Fais dodo: Berceuses—Sleepyme: Lullabies J443.8
Hop n Bop: Songs for You and Me J782.41C
Let's Wiggle J796.13W
Smart Music: Classical Music for Babies: Cartime J784.2S
Softly We Sing J782.421S
Wee Sing for Baby J782.421W
Whaddaya Think of That? J782.42B

The Parent’s Corner

Here are some of our favorite parenting books; several focus on the importance of books in the life of a young child. For other helpful titles, our parenting section is conveniently located next to the picture book collection.

Baby Play: 100 Fun-Filled Activities to Maximize Your Baby’s Potential by Dr. Wendy S. Masi and Dr. Roni Cohen Leiderman J649.5B
Great Books for Babies and Toddlers: More than 500 Recommended Books for Your Child’s First Three Years by Kathleen Odean J028.1620
Read It! Play It! with Babies and Toddlers by Joanne and Stephanie Oppenheim J011.620
Reading with Babies, Toddlers and Twos: a Guide to Choosing, Reading and Loving Books Together by Susan Straub J372.4S
Dr. Spock’s The First Two Years: The Emotional and Physical Needs of Children from Birth to Age Two by Dr. Spock J649.122S

Six Skills your child needs to learn to read — starting from birth!

- **Vocabulary:** knowing the name of things
- **Print Awareness:** noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and how to follow the written word on a page.
- **Narrative Skills:** the ability to describe things and tell stories.
- **Print Motivation:** a child’s interest in and enjoyment of books.
- **Phonological Awareness:** the ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.
- **Letter Knowledge:** knowing that letters are different from each other, that each letter has a name and is related to a sound.

The Ferguson Library has a rich and diverse collection of books and CDs that support these six skills for infants and toddlers, and we have selected a sampling of our favorites for this list. And don’t forget, a Ferguson youth librarian is always available to make individualized reading recommendations for you and your young child.

Special thanks to Connecticut children’s book illustrator Nancy Elizabeth Wallace for her generous contribution of an original paper-cut illustration for this booklist.

Recommended by the Youth Services Librarians at The Ferguson Library
Bedford & Broad Streets, Stamford 203 964-1000
www.fergusonlibrary.org
Board Books for Babies

Share these sturdy board books with your infant even if it is just for a couple of minutes at a time.

Baby! Baby! by Vicky Cecil
Belly Button Book by Sandra Boynton
Choo Choo by Petr Horacek
Binky by Leslie Patricelli
Diddle, Dumpling by Tracey Campbell Pearson
Tomie’s Little Mother Goose by Tomie DePaola
Whose Toes Are Those? by Jabari Asim

Easy Concept Books

Researchers say children learn more from books when they are actively involved. Parents and children can interact while learning concepts such as numbers and colors.

A Child’s Day: An Alphabet of Play by Ida Pearle
Big and Little by Margaret Miller
Blue Goose by Nancy Tafuri
Eric Carle’s ABC by Eric Carle
The Everything Book by Denise Fleming
Lots and Lots by Harriet Ziefert
Maisy’s Amazing Big Book of Words by Lucy Cousins
Red, Yellow, Blue and You by Cynthia Vance
Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang
Ten Tiny Babies by Karen Katz

Mother Goose, Rhymes and Play Books

Nursery rhymes are important for building phonological awareness. They are easy to memorize and fun to hear, and they expose young children to the sounds of a language using rhyme and repetition.

Baby Love by Hope Vestergaard E821V
The Baby’s Playtime Book by Kay Chorao E821.08C
Good Morning Sweetie Pie: And Other Poems for Little Children by Cynthia Rylant E821R
Hickory Dickory Dock by Keith Baker E PIC B
Mama Goose: a Latino Nursery Treasury by Alma Flor Ada ESPA398.8
Mother Goose’s Little Treasures by Iona Opie E398.8
Out Came the Sun: A Day in Nursery Rhyme by Heather Collins E398.8C
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear: A Traditional Rhyme by Tim Bush E PIC B
You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You: Very Short Mother Goose Tales to Read Together by Maryanne Hoberman E398.2H

Easy Stories for Toddlers

By the time your child has reached one year he may be pointing out things to you in his books! Try these books with large clear pictures and very simple stories. Many of them feature familiar themes or animals, and some encourage participation between parent and child.

All of Baby Nose to Toes by Victoria Adler
Baby Radar by Naomi Shihab Nye
Do Lions Live on Lilypads? by Melanie Walsh
Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too? by Eric Carle
El Canguro Tiene Mama? by Eric Carle ESPCarle
Fix It, Sam by Lori Ries
Gossie by Olivier Dunrea
Hurry! Hurry! by Eve Bunting
I Kissed the Baby! by Mary Murphy
I Like It When–Me Gusto Cuando by Mary Murphy ESPAMurphy
Jan Ormerod’s To Baby with Love by Jan Ormerod
My Baby and Me by Lynn Reiser
Overboard! by Sara Weeks
Ten Little Fingers & Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox
Time to Get Dressed! by Elivia Savadier
Uh-Oh! by Rachel Isadora
Whose Baby Am I? by John Butler