

Raising a Reader



Literacy is speaking, listening, writing and reading. It begins with at birth with a child's first cooing. There are many ways to boost your child's abilities at every age. The Demopolis Public Library is here to help your child get ready for reading.

•Newborn to 3 Months•

- Hold your baby often for the physical contact which ALL babies need.
- Talk to your baby about what you are doing while holding him or her. Feeding is a great time to talk to baby.
- Play little games of moving an object slowly and letting your baby follow it with his or her eyes.
- Read, play music, and sing songs and nursery rhymes to your baby.

•4 to 6 Months•

- Start to read to your baby each day. Make this a special time for you and your baby.
- Begin with 5-minute sessions. Lengthen the time as your child can pay attention longer.
- Point to pictures and words as you read. Talk about colors, number of things and directions (up, down).
- Make up stories to go with the picture books.

•7 to 12 Months•

- Read to baby. Be sure that there are not too many words on a page.
- Make up your own stories to go along with the pictures in books.
- Read the same books to your child over and over again until he or she becomes familiar with them.
- Give your child enough time with each picture to really enjoy it.
- Play pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo, and finger games with



•1 to 2 Years (Toddlers)•

- Have a regular time each day to read to your child. Many families do this right before bedtime.
- Let your child help you read the story by turning the pages and repeating the words and sentences when he or she can.
- Use different voices for the different characters in the story. This will make it more fun for your child.
- Use your baby's name often. Name other people, animals, and objects as you talk. Put your child's name into the story-line of a favorite book.
- Share nursery rhymes and songs with your toddler often. Great song

•3 to 4 Years (Preschoolers)•

- Let your child choose the book or books to read. Children love to hear the same stories over and over again.
- Start reading books that are a little longer.
- Make listening to a story something fun. Don't demand a child to sit and listen if he or she is not interested.
- Make sure that your child sees you and others reading daily.
- Take your child to a story time at the public library.
- Involve your child in reading activities-books, games, audio books, and special story times.

•5 Years and Older•

- Make reading important. Children learn to read better if their home has books, newspapers, and magazines.
- Books for all ages are available free from your local library.
- Continue reading to your child even though he or she is beginning to read on his or her own. Take turns reading to each other. Read the comic section of the newspaper together.
- Point out what the signs say when you are driving or shopping. You can make a game of learning to identify words.
- Play rhyming games with your child. Say a word and allow the child to come up with a rhyme, or vice-versa.
- Make frequent trips to your public library.
- Have patience! Learning to read is a challenge. (It is like learning a new language.)