

Exploring

infants and toddlers

Capital District Child Care Council *a tipsheet for parents and caregivers of children ages 0 to 2*

Choosing Books for Young Readers

Babies 0-6 Months

- Books with simple, large pictures or designs with bright colors.
- Stiff cardboard, chunky books, or fold out books that can be propped up for baby to see.
- Cloth books with simple pictures of people or familiar objects

Babies 6-12 Months

- Board books with photos of other babies from all cultures.
- Brightly colored “chunky” board books to touch and taste.
- Books with familiar objects like balls, basic clothing or household items.
- Books with sturdy pages that can be propped up or spread out in the crib or on a blanket.
- Plastic/vinyl books for bath time.
- Washable cloth books to cuddle and mouth.
- Soft washable photo cubes of family and friends.

Young Toddlers 12-24 Months

- Sturdy books that they can carry.
- Books with photos of children of all cultures doing familiar things like sleeping or playing.
- Goodnight books for bedtime.
- Books about saying good-bye and hello.
- Books with very few or no words.
- Books with simple stories or repeating verses.
- Touch and feel books.

Older Toddlers 24-36 Months

- Books that tell simple stories.
- Books that honor different cultures.
- Books of all shapes and sizes with pictures of animals, vehicles or places to go.
- Pop-up books, pull-tab books, touch and feel books.
- Books with silly pictures and words.

Preschoolers 3-5 Years

- Books about children that look like them, live like them as well as children who live different lives.
- Counting or other “concept” books.
- Books about how things work - like fire trucks, large construction vehicles or tools.
- Special interest books – like trains, cook books or insects.
- Books about making friends.
- Books about going to school or to the doctor.
- Books about families.
- Simple books they can memorize and read.

**Books
can be easily
made at home
and often end up
baby's favorites.**

