# Milestones of Early Literacy Development

**Newborn to 6 Months**

**Talk, Read, Sing, Play** Right from birth, babies are listening, looking, and learning. So find, and enjoy, those everyday moments when you can talk, read, sing, and play together with your baby.

**Motor Development**

**What Your Child Is Doing**

- Holds head steady
- Sits in lap without support
- Grasps book, puts in mouth
- Drops, throws book

**Communication and Cognition**

**What Your Child Is Saying and Learning**

- Smiles, babbles, coos
- Likes and wants your voice
- Likes pictures of baby faces
- Begins to say "ma", "ba", "da"
- Responds to own name
- Pats picture to show interest

**Anticipatory Guidance**

**What Parents Can Do**

- Talk back and forth with your baby; make eye contact
- Cuddle, sing, talk, play, read
- Point at and name things: nose, ball, baby, dog...
- Follow baby's cues for "more" or "stop"
- Play games such as "peek-a-boo" or "pat-a-cake"

**What to Read**

- Board and cloth books
- Books with baby faces
- Nursery rhymes

**6 to 12 Months**

- Holds and walks with book
- No longer puts book in mouth right away
- Turns board book pages

**12 to 24 Months**

- Says single words, then 2- to 4-word phrases
- Gives book to adult to read
- Points at pictures
- Turns book right-side up
- Names pictures, follows simple stories

**2 to 3 Years**

- Learns to turn paper pages, 2 to 3 pages at a time
- Starts to scribble

**3 to 4 Years**

- Adds 2-4 new words per day
- Names familiar objects
- Likes the same book again and again
- Completes sentences and rhymes in familiar stories

**4 to 5 Years**

- Starts to copy letters and numbers
- Sits still for even longer stories

- Can listen longer
- Recognizes numbers, letters
- Can retell familiar stories
- Can make rhymes
- Learning letter names and sounds

- Relate the story to your child's own experiences
- Let your child see you read
- Encourage writing, drawing
- Point out the letters in your child's name

**Search and Find Books**

- Picture books that tell longer stories, counting and alphabet books
- Fairy tales and legends, books with longer stories, fewer pictures

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