

# Developmental milestones of early literacy

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You know you should read to your child, but how early should you start and what books will keep their attention?

Mengle Memorial Library is here to help. This brochure contains useful information about what kind of reading you can do with your child at every stage of development.

*Mengle Memorial Library*  
324 Main Street  
Brockway, PA 15824  
814-265-8245  
[menglelibrary.org](http://menglelibrary.org)

*Library hours are:*  
Monday through Thursday ~ 10-7  
Friday and Saturday ~ 10-5  
(Summer Saturday hours ~ 10-2)

*The Mengle Memorial Library has received grant funding to become a Family Place Library! This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, & the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, Governor.*

WHAT SHOULD  
WE  
READ?

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1-2-3  
Grow with Me



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**Newborn:** Babies love hearing the sound of their parent's voice. Plus, you get to spend extra time snuggling and being close to your infant. What you read isn't important, magazines and newspapers are fine. Just enjoy your time together.



**6-12 months:** At this stage, your baby is probably sitting up and grasping things. They are most likely putting everything in their mouth. Boardbooks are perfect for this stage. Let them practice holding the book and turning the pages, and don't worry about the drool.



**1-2 years:** Now your child is beginning to walk and talk. They can hold books by themselves, and you can ask them questions about the pictures and ask them to point things out to you. You'll want books with lots of pictures, but not too many words on the page. Toddler's attention spans aren't usually very long. Remember, at this age enjoying your time together is the most important part of reading. *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell and *The Going to Bed Book* by Sandra Boynton are stories this age should enjoy.



**2-3 years:** Brightly colored picture books without a lot of words are great for this age. Your child will enjoy "reading" their favorite stories to you. They probably have some favorites that they want to hear over and over again. That's okay, children at this age thrive on routine. Bedtime stories are an especially good routine to have. Some favorite stories are *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown and *Brown Bear Brown Bear What do You Hear* by Bill Martin Jr.



**4-5 years:** Children at this age are able to sit still for longer periods of time, and love to listen to stories. They are beginning to play with words, and love funny stories that make them giggle. They are also able to follow more complicated story lines, and enjoy stories with more words on each page. Books like *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey and the Piggy and Elephant books by Mo Willems are good choices for this age.