

SHARE STEP

Book Sharing with Babies and Toddlers

SHARE ways you can share a book with a baby or toddler.

STEP ideas for how you can respond.

SHARE

Snuggle

Hands On

Affection

Respond

Enjoy

STEP

Stretch words

Talk about pictures

Explore sounds

Patience

Why? According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, reading aloud to babies has a long lasting effect on language and literacy development, and reading skills. Sharing books joyfully makes a difference!



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SHARE

Snuggle: If your child likes to snuggle or cuddle, do so while sharing books.

Hands on: Let your baby or toddler hold and handle the book. It's fine if your baby chews on the book. They are learning how books work.

Affection: Reading in a loving way with your baby or toddler helps build strong relationships and trust.

Respond to the child using STEP activities listed below.

Enjoy the process. Don't worry about getting it "right."

STEP

Stretch word sounds so your child can hear them more easily.

Talk about the pictures using lots of words. Don't worry if your child cannot understand all you say.

Explore word sounds in fun ways—sounds of animals, cars, trains

Patience helps when your child gets frustrated and goes a long way in helping your child enjoy books. It's fine to stop before the book is done, and share another time.

The SHARE STEP Method was developed by Dr. John Hutton, Pediatrician, Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Learn more at <http://www.blumanateepress.com/share-this-book>