

CHOOSING BOOKS For Children



OBJECTIVES

- To learn what types of books are appropriate for children up to age 6.
- To look at some interesting books for children.

CHOOSING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

- People sometimes think you should wait until children can sit still or understand all the words in a story before you start to read to them.

But...

- Children can benefit from reading together right from the time they are born.

WHY READ TO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN?

- All children love to hear the sounds of their parents' and caregivers' voices.
- Children learn to talk by hearing other people talk to them.
- Spending time together reading is a great way to bond.
- Children learn important pre-literacy skills, such as how to handle books and which way to turn pages.

CHOOSING BOOKS

But...

- Not all books are right for all children.
- There are many different kinds of books available that are suitable for different ages of children.

NEWBORNS

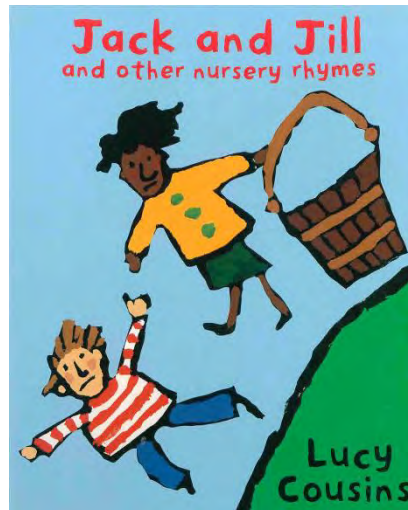
- Can discriminate a range of sounds
- Recognize and enjoy the sound of a parent's voice



NEWBORNS

Suggested Books

- Nursery rhymes or lullabies



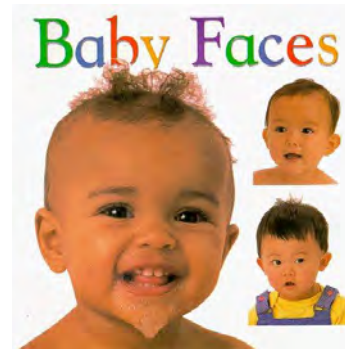
6 WEEKS — 3 MONTHS

- Eyes are beginning to focus
- Are more alert and sleep less
- Enjoy faces, contrasting colours
- Hearing is well-developed
- Responses are minimal, but babies love hearing their parents' voices

6 WEEKS – 3 MONTHS

Recommended Books

- Books with simple, uncluttered illustrations
- Books with high contrast of colours and shapes
- Books with pictures of babies
- Wordless books



3 – 6 MONTHS

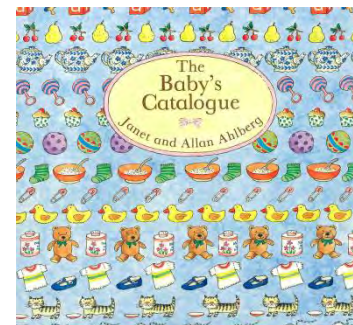
- Like to touch and reach for things
- Respond to people and things by making sounds
- Like bright colours



3 – 6 MONTHS

Recommended Books

- Books with simple illustrations
- Books with high contrast colours and shapes
- Books with pictures of babies
- Sturdy board or cloth books that can withstand being handled and chewed



6 – 9 MONTHS

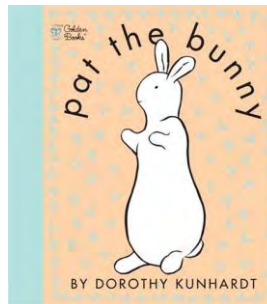
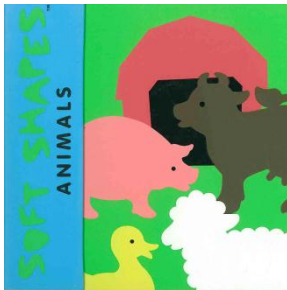
- Can imitate sounds
- Begins to understand the meanings of words
- Are mobile
- Can't sit still for a whole story
- Love to touch things with different textures
- Hand/eye coordination is improving
- Can turn pages (often several at a time)



6 – 9 MONTHS

Recommended Books

- Simple rhyme books
- Books with one object and a label on each page
- Touch-and- feel books, books with rattles, mirrors, etc.



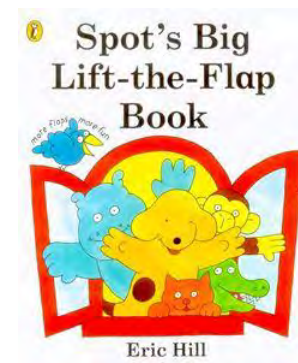
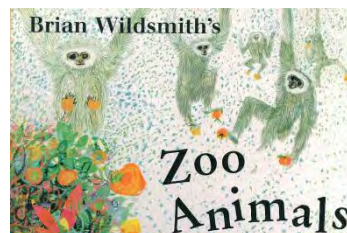
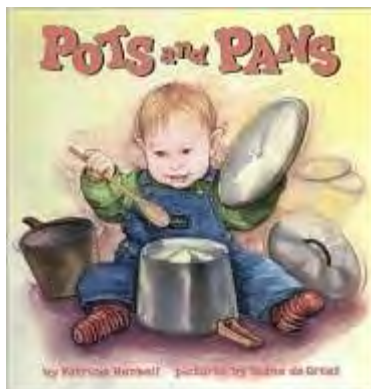
9 – 12 MONTHS

- Can focus for longer
- Know the meaning of several words
- Enjoy copying sounds
- Can point to illustrations
- Enjoy simple stories

9 – 12 MONTHS

Recommended Books

- Lift-the-flap books
- Animal books
- Books with familiar objects
- Simple stories with short sentences



12 – 16 MONTHS

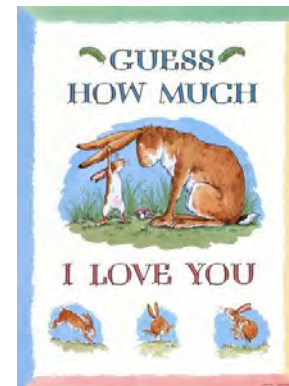
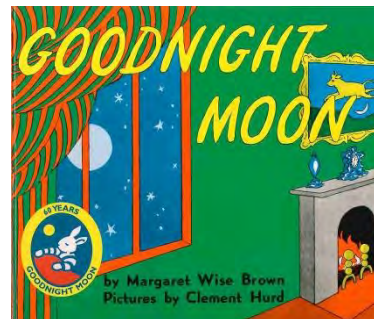
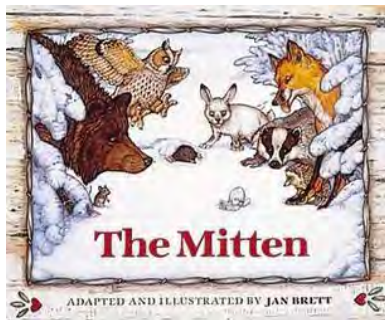
- Understand an increasing number of words
- Understand many more words than they can say
- Make up words for things
- Can point at and name familiar objects



12 – 16 MONTHS

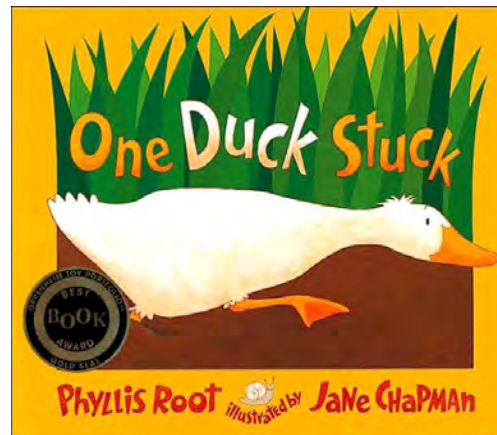
Recommended Books

- Books with silly, made-up words
- Books about loving and caring
- Books about a child's daily routine
- Calming books for bedtime



16 – 24 MONTHS

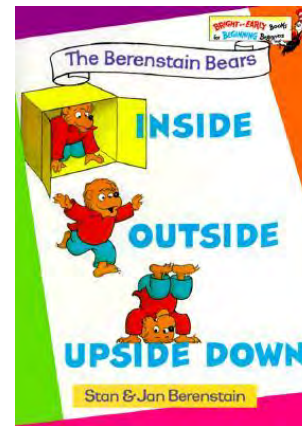
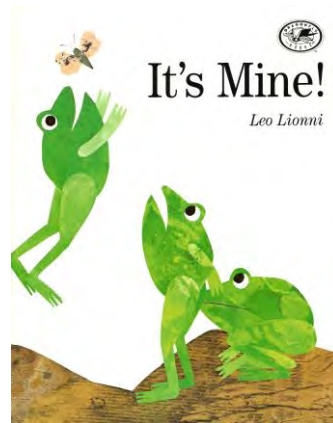
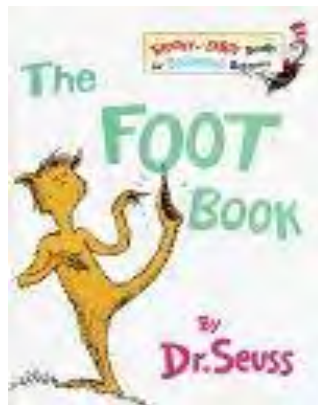
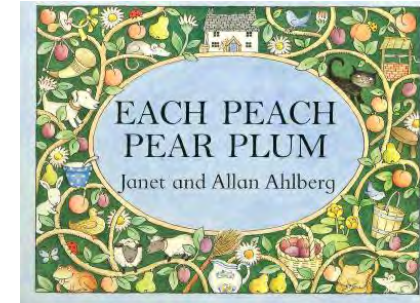
- Learn new words every day
- Are beginning to understand spatial concepts (up/down, in/out, behind/in front of)
- Love to imitate others
- Can scribble



16 –24 MONTHS

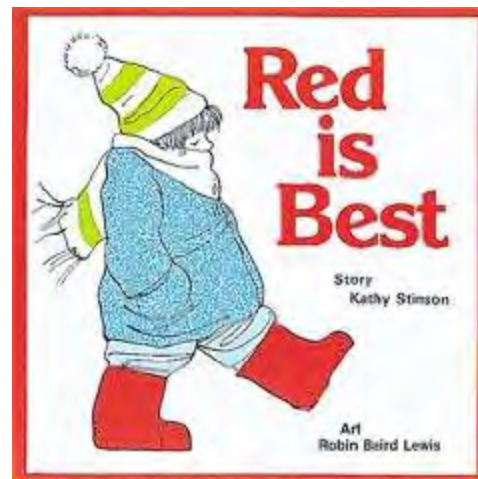
Recommended Books

- Books about spatial concepts
- Books about body parts
- Books about feelings
- Books about families



2 YEARS

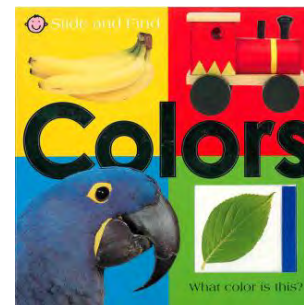
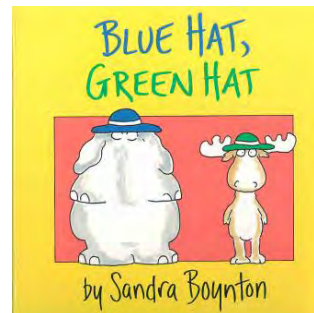
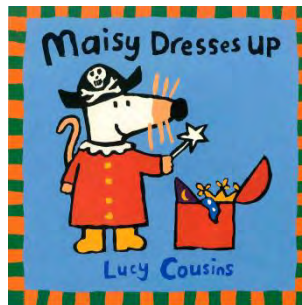
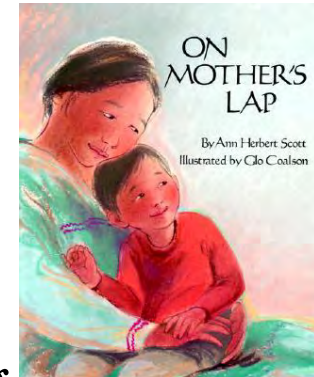
- Learn new words every day
- Can combine words into simple sentences
- Like to sing songs
- Like to play sorting games



2 YEARS

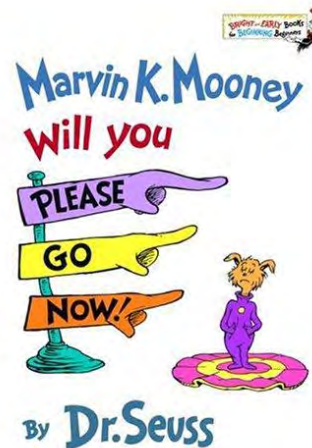
Recommended Books

- Books about shapes and colours
- Books about matching and sorting
- Books about describing things
- Books about families and friends



3 YEARS

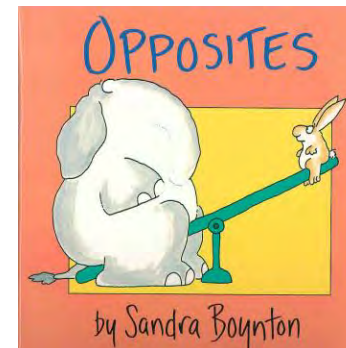
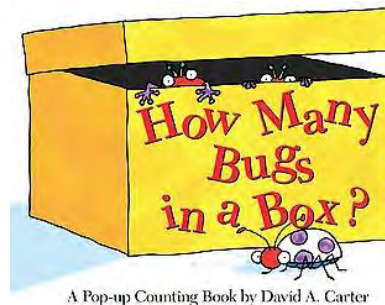
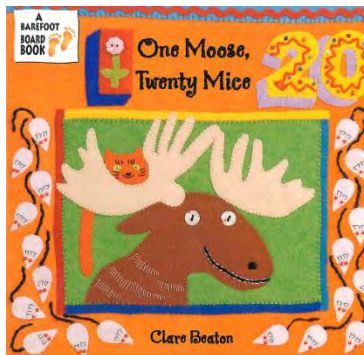
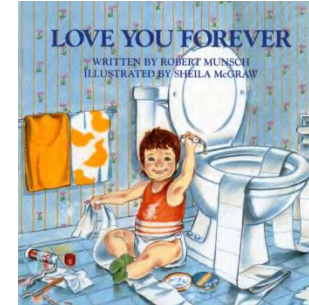
- Are starting to count
- Like drawing
- Like to pretend
- Like to join in when parts of a story are repeated



3 YEARS

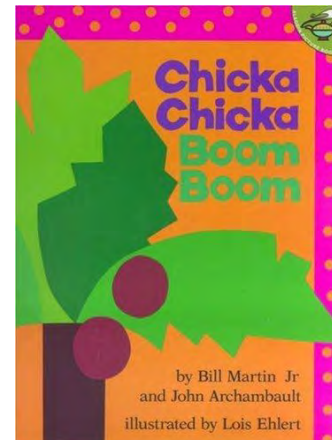
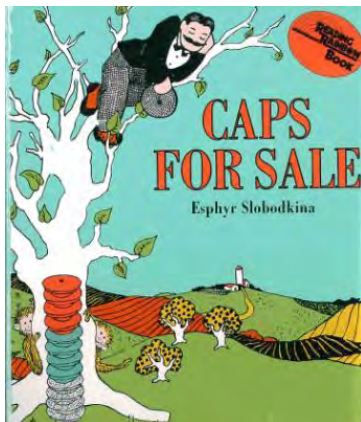
Recommended Books

- Counting Books
- Books with surprises
- Silly or make-believe books
- Books about colours, sizes, shapes, opposites



4 YEARS

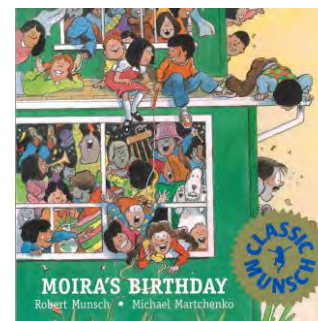
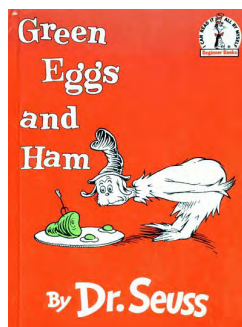
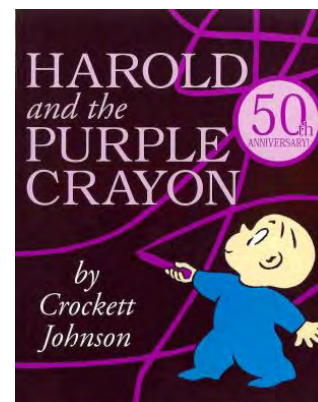
- Can rhyme
- Are starting to learn about letters
- Ask a lot of questions
- Like to tell stories
- Like making up words



4 YEARS

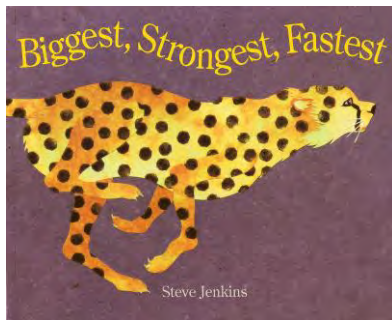
Recommended Books

- Alphabet books
- Silly stories
- Rhyming stories
- Books about counting, colours, sizes, shapes, opposites



5 YEARS

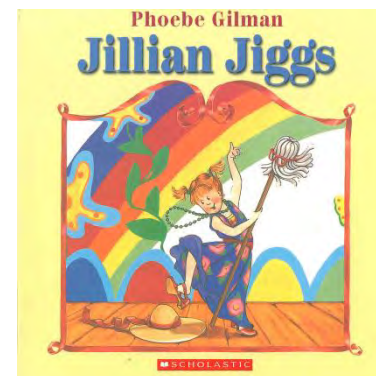
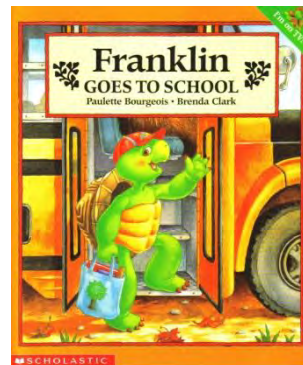
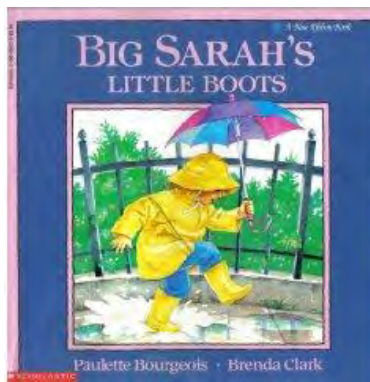
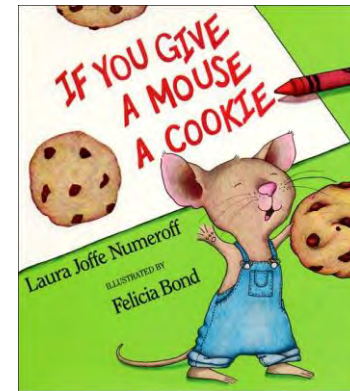
- Understand comparisons
- Know some colours, shapes, numbers, and letters
- Are learning to write
- May be learning to read



5 YEARS

Recommended Books

- Make believe or silly stories
- Longer stories with more complicated plots
- Easy readers
- Books about going to school



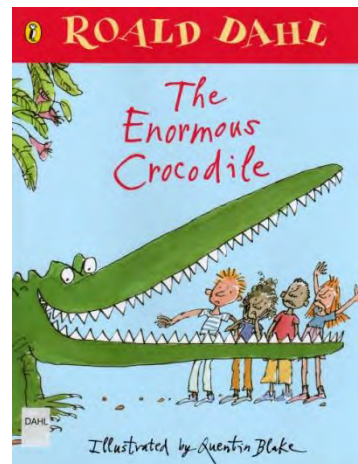
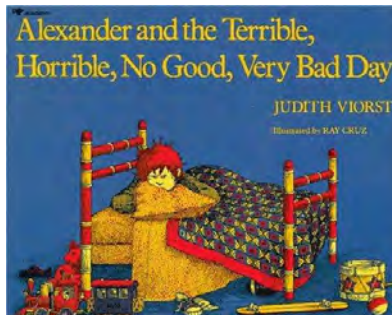
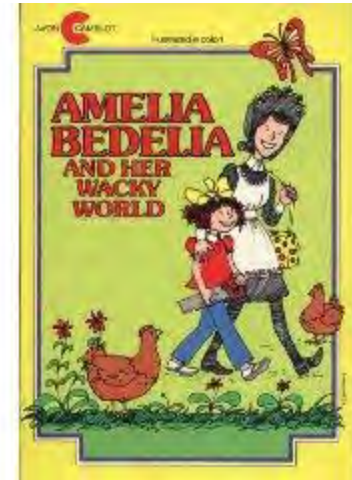
6 YEARS

- Speak in longer sentences and can hold conversations
- Can read and write some words
- Can memorize and recite favourite songs and rhymes
- Can pay attention for longer periods of time.

6 YEARS

Recommended Books

- Longer stories
- Imaginative or fantasy stories
- Easy readers (for reading themselves)
- “Chapter books” (for reading aloud)



MORE TIPS FOR CHOOSING BOOKS

- Choose books you like. Your child will be able to tell if you are not enjoying yourself.
- Repeat, repeat, repeat. Although it may be boring for adults, children need repetition to feel comfortable and learn.
- Choose books with familiar objects and scenery. There are lots of great northern and aboriginal content books out there.



READING TIPS

- Don't stop reading to your children after they learn to read themselves!



REMEMBER

- These guidelines are just suggestions. The most important thing is to read books that you and your children both enjoy!

