

## **Literacy Development from Birth to Preschool**

### **Infants**

#### **Newborns**

- Rhythmic sounds of lullabies and nursery rhymes are calming. These will be their first stories.

#### **4 Months Old**

- Shows an interest in books and starts to explore them by chewing or throwing them. At this age, your baby needs sturdy vinyl or cloth books that can survive chewing and are not easily torn.

#### **6 to 18 Months Old**

- Imitate sounds they hear in language
- Begins to learn the meaning of spoken words (labeling objects, people, etc.)
- Responds when spoken to
- Looks at pictures
- Reaches for books and turns the pages with help
- Responds to stories and pictures by vocalizing and patting the pictures
- Plays games which involve taking turns, repetition, song

### **Toddlers:**

- Recognizes certain books by the cover
- Enjoys being read to, may have favorite books
- May begin to label specific familiar letters in text
- May pretend to read
- Answers questions about and identify objects in books — such as "Where's the cow?" or "What does the cow say?"
- Names familiar pictures
- Uses pointing to identify named objects
- Pretends to read books
- Finishes sentences in books they know well
- Scribbles on paper
- Have a favorite book and request it to be read often

### **Age 3-4 years**

- Enjoys listening to and talking about books
- Able to "read" environmental print (i.e. restaurant signs, stop sign, cereal boxes)

- "Reads" favorite text by memory
- Starts to play with and recognize rhyme through song, games, nursery rhymes
- Can identify some letters of the alphabet, may know some corresponding sounds
- May be able to recognize own name in print
- Explores books independently
- Listens to longer books that are read aloud
- Retells a familiar story
- Recites the alphabet
- Begins to sing the alphabet song with prompting and cues
- Makes continuous symbols that resemble writing
- Imitates the action of reading a book aloud
- Makes up rhymes or silly phrases
- Reads and writes their names
- Uses familiar letters to try writing words
- Understand that print is read from left to right, top to bottom

### **Bibliography:**

Armbruster, Bonnie, Fran Lehr, and Jean Osborn. "A Child Becomes a Reader: Birth Through Preschool."  
<[http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/html/parent\\_guides/birth\\_to\\_pre.html#infants\\_and\\_toddlers](http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/html/parent_guides/birth_to_pre.html#infants_and_toddlers)>

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"Early Literacy." *Zero to Three*. N.p., n.d. Web. <<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/early-language-literacy/earlyliteracy2pagehandout.pdf>>.

Quick, Carl, EdD. "Reading Milestones." *Kids Health*. Web. 15 Mar. 2014.

Further information at [www.michigan.gov/michiganreads](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganreads).

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