

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF READING TO YOUR CHILD

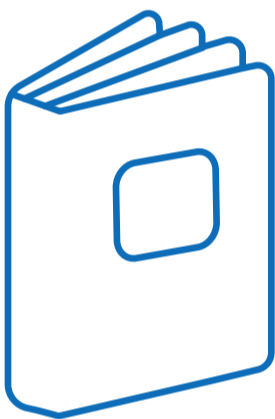
From age zero to three, children benefit when you read aloud to them.



It stimulates and strengthens the part of the brain that understands visuals, stories and the meanings of words.



They are twice as likely to be in the top 25% of reading readiness.



They have a greater understanding of places, people and events beyond their home.



It creates a stronger bond with their caregiver.



It feeds their imaginations.

Here are some ways to make the most of reading aloud to 0 – 3-year-olds.



START EARLY.

Reading to babies builds bonds and vocabulary. Even before birth, they benefit from hearing your voice.



MAKE IT A HABIT.

If reading is part of their routine from infancy, they are more likely to want to continue.



ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION.

Let them turn the pages. Ask them questions about what's going on.



USE THE PICTURES.

Point to the pictures and say the words. This helps them understand the connection between the two.



INVOLVE THEM IN THE STORY.

Ask them what they think will happen next or why a character did something.



CREATE CONNECTIONS TO THEIR WORLD.

Help them understand the things you read relate to the real world, like saying "this grandma likes making cookies, just like yours does!"



Great strides begin with small steps.



For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mikidsmatter