

Enjoying books with your toddler

(1-3 Years)

Choosing books for toddlers

Toddlers love a variety of books, including those about everyday experiences like going to the doctor or starting preschool.

Picture books are ideal and many are also available as audio books, so you and your child can listen together. Picture and audio books in your home language also benefit your child.

Read or listen to the book yourself first to see if it will suit your child. A scary book might frighten one child while another will love it. You know your child's likes and dislikes!

Look for stories that are short, easily understood and give you a chance to talk with your toddler about family life. This might be because the book is about families like yours, but remember that books for toddlers often use animals and imaginary characters to show children's differing life experiences too.

Choose books to suit different times of the day. Interactive books like lift-the-flap and books with items hidden in the pictures make for lots of excitement. Books with rhymes, songs and repetition are a chance for singing and chanting together, while having some favourite comforting and calming stories will suit bedtime.

Supporting toddlers to listen and be engaged

Toddlers love to take part, so pause to let your child finish a phrase or say a rhyme from a familiar story. Toddlers also like to turn the pages and to point things out.

As well as reading the story, spend time exploring the pictures and talking about them.

Ask questions like, Where is ...?

Can you find the ...?

Your 'reading aloud voice' needs to keep your toddler's attention so vary your tone and moo, bark and honk if the story needs it!



Bedtime story routines

Bedtime is a good opportunity for sharing a gentle story as you make reading a part of the bedtime routine. Pick less interactive stories for night time and read in a nice, soothing voice. Above all, enjoy reading together!

Suggested list of books to read with toddlers

Dr Mary Roche, (education consultant and author of 'Developing Children's Critical Thinking through Picturebooks') has made a list of some books that your toddler might enjoy. There are many other books available, so have a look in the toddler section of your local library for more ideas. Younger toddlers might like many of the books on the baby booklist and older toddlers will enjoy some of the books on the list for young children.

Alfie series of books (2012) by Shirley Hughes

Spot Loves His Daddy (2005) by Eric Hill*

All Fall Down (1999) by Helen Oxenbury*

Spot Loves His Mummy (2006) by Eric Hill*

Are You My Mother? (1998) by P.D. Eastman*

The Biggest Kiss (2011) by Joanna Walsh*

Bear and Hare Go Fishing (2014) by Emily Gravett*

The Lonely Beast (2011) by Chris Judge*

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? (2012) by Bill Martin*

The Napping House (2000) by Audrey and Don Wood*

Can't you Sleep, Little Bear? (1988) by Martin Waddell*

The Perfect Hug (2012) by Joanna Walsh*

Corduroy (1976) by Don Freeman*

The Ravenous Beast (2003) by Niamh Sharkey*

Counting Kisses: A Kiss and Read Book (2003) by Karen Katz

The Very Hungry Caterpillar (2009) by Eric Carle*

Fox's Socks (2011) by Julia Donaldson*

Time for Bed (1997) by Mem Fox and Jane Dyer*

Zeki Gets a Check up (2021) by Anna McQuinn and Ruth Hearson

We're Going on a Bear Hunt (1997) by Michael Rosen*

Zeki Loves Daddy (2021) by Anna McQuinn and Ruth Hearson

Where are Maisy's friends? (2011) by Lucy Cousins

Zeki Loves Mummy (2021) by Anna McQuinn and Ruth Hearson

Babaí Cathal: Lá Nua (2019) by Anna Paradis

Owl Babies (1975) by Martin Waddell*

Dainín - Bog Chun Siúil (2018) by Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin agus Steve Simpson

* Available as an audio book

Pat the Bunny (2001) by Dorothy Kunhardt	No More Nappies: A Potty Training Book (2018) by Campbell Books and Marion Cocklico
Penguin (2007) by Polly Dunbar*	Fruits (2019) by Valerie Bloom and David Axtell*
Postman Bear (2011) by Julia Donaldson*	Red, Red, Red (2020) by Polly Dunbar*
Rabbit's Nap (2011) by Julia Donaldson*	Catch That Chicken (2021) by Atinuke and Angela Brooksbank
Rosie's Walk (2009) by Pat Hutchins*	Bedtime With Ted (2017) by Sophy Henn
Say Goodnight (1999) by Helen Oxenbury*	Playtime With Ted (2017) by Sophy Henn
One Fox (2019) by Kate Read*	Teatime with Ted (2018) by Sophy Henn
Lulu's First Day (2019) by Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw	Where's Mr Fire Engine? (2021) by Ingela P Arrhenius
Lulu Gets a Cat (2017) by Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw	Where's Mr Lion? (2017) by Ingela P Arrhenius
Lulu's Sleepover (2021) by Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw	Pop Up Park (2019) by Ingela P. Arrhenius
Grumpy Duck (2018) by Joyce Dunbar and Petr Horacek*	The Flute (2019) by Ken Wilson – Max and Catell Ronca
Little Owl, Little Owl, Can't you Sleep? (2018) by Jo Lodge*	Tree: A Peek-Through Board Book (2021) by Britta Teckentrup
Are You a Cow? (2012) by Sandra Boynton*	I Can, Can You? (2004) by Marjorie Pitzer*
Everybody Has Feelings (2021) by Jon Burgerman	Sleep Tight, Teddy! (2018) by Child's Play and Jo Byatt
My Hair (2020) by Danielle Murrell Cox *	All the Ways to be Smart (2020) by Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys*



* Available as an audio book