



Learning to read *begins* before children start school. Help your children develop early literacy skills now; this makes it easier for children to learn to read once they begin school.

Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are:

Talking  
Singing  
Reading  
Writing  
Playing



Learn how to help your child get ready to read @ your library.



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Every Child Ready to Read® is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

[www.everychildreadytoread.org](http://www.everychildreadytoread.org)

## Stages in Learning Vocabulary

### Birth

Cries, burps, sneezes, coughs.

### 2 months

Vowel-like sounds: goo, aah, ooh, and others.

### 4 - 6 months

Babbling (“mammama”... “dada”).

### 9 - 12 months

Advanced babbling, with sentence-like phrasing and rhythm.

### 12 months

Around one year old, your child will say his or her first real word. He or she will start with single syllables, then may double some syllables, as in “wawa” or “mama.” Your child will continue to say only one word at a time for several more months.

### 18 - 24 months

Between a year and a half and two years old, your child will begin to talk in “telegraphic speech.” This sounds like, “Want cookie” or “Me milk.” You can extend your child’s talk by saying, “You want a cookie?” or “You want me to give you some milk?” This will help increase your child’s vocabulary.

### Preschool years (2 - 5)

Around age two, you will see an explosion of language. Your child will learn vocabulary quickly, begin using new words, speak in sentences, and combine words with greater frequency and fluency. From ages 2 - 5, expect your child to ask many questions and learn to take turns speaking. Having conversations, listening, and following your child’s lead is one of the best ways to increase vocabulary and comprehension skills. This helps your child get ready to read.