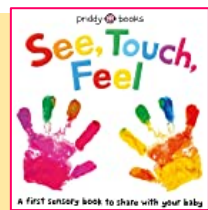
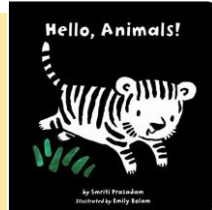


## Reading with Babies & Toddlers

### Infants: Birth – 11 Months

In their first year of life babies' bodies and brains are taking in information, making connections, and developing rapidly. Milestones include:

1. Developing bonds of love and trust with parents & caregivers
2. Focusing their vision and eye coordination
3. Hearing and stockpiling language information, words, tone of voice and more
4. Gaining control of body movements: holding up head, rolling over, reaching out, touching and grabbing people and objects
5. Experimenting with language: communicating with squeals, cries, and single words
6. Beginning to explore the people and objects in their environment

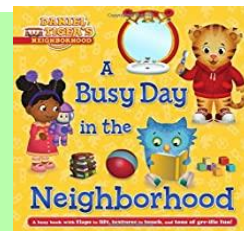
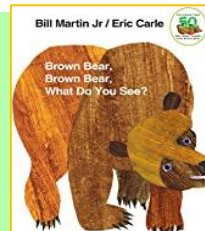
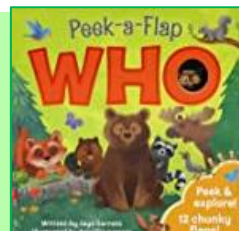
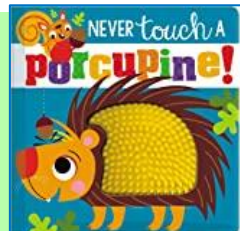
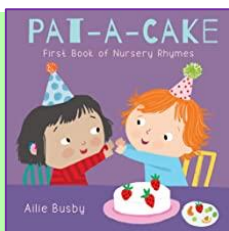


Hold your baby and look through high-contrast books (crisp black and white images) that feature close-ups of objects and faces. Point to and name the objects aloud, ***talking, singing, and snuggling*** while you read. Include books that have touch-and-feel/sensory aspects. You'll engage babies' imaginations and interest, leading them to associate reading with security, love and exploration, and urging them on their way to achieving several of the developmental milestones mentioned.

### Toddlers: 12 – 23 Months

In their second year, young children become more connected to language, people, pets, and their environment. Milestones include:

1. Recognizing themselves in mirrors and pictures
2. Imitating others' behaviors
3. Recognizing names of familiar people and objects
4. Form simple phrases and sentences
5. Exhibiting their own desires – experimenting with defiance
6. Exploring more independently



Continue to hold or sit close with toddlers while reading. ***Talk even more*** about the pictures, words, and characters in the books. Engage them in singing/chanting nursery rhymes and songs, lifting flaps, touching and feeling textures, and repeating the names of objects or people. Encourage them to point to and count items seen in the books, and in your home.