



Families are
**Children's
First
Teachers**

***When* Reading with Your Infant or Toddler**

Learning Opportunities Include:

- Listening and understanding
- Exploring books
- Communicating with others



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Find time to read to your child daily.

Reading experts agree that children who are read to by their family members become better readers.

Babies and toddlers benefit when you enjoy books together! You can get books from your public library and may be able to borrow them from your child's early childhood program.

As you share a book with your baby or toddler, she can listen to the words as well as look at the pictures. Many books are made of cloth, cardboard, or plastic so that babies can explore them in different ways. She may even put a book in her mouth and that's okay! A baby can look at books on your lap, on the floor, in her car seat, or at her high chair. Books can be everywhere.

Perhaps you can find books in the language of your family, or translate as you read. As your baby responds to the pictures, you can name the item or describe what you see. In this way, you are helping her learn more about her world, teaching her new words and concepts, and helping her learn to focus on a story.

You may want to tell family stories to your child as you look at photos of relatives and pets. Following along with an interesting family story will help him become more interested in reading as well. Toddlers may have some favorite books that they ask you to read again and again. Good! As your child hears the same story again and again, he is learning that print is consistent and always says the same thing. And, don't forget to laugh and giggle as you enjoy a book together.



Download the “Families are Children’s First Teachers” materials and related documents at www.newmexicokids.org under the Caregivers & Educators tab.

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