

# Ready 2 Read!

## OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH TODDLERS

- Have your child help you choose which books and stories to read at the library – they can even help to hold the book and turn pages while you are reading the book together!
- Ask questions that invite more conversation than a yes/no answer – “What is this thing called?” “I wonder how they feel about that?” “What do you think she is doing now?”
- Encourage your child to tell a story back to you, especially a well-loved one that you have read together many times!
- Make sure you have lots of books available in the car, in the bathroom, in the kitchen, etc. You can read for a few minutes here and there, wherever you have time!

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

**Y**ou can learn more about how to help your child’s early literacy skills by talking with your local public librarian! You can also visit [ready2readmontana.org](http://ready2readmontana.org) for more resources on books, songs, fingerplays, and other fun things to do with your child.



<http://ready2readmontana.org>

An illustration of two brown bears. A large bear is sitting on the left, facing right, with its right paw raised towards a red circle. A smaller bear is sitting on the right, facing left, looking up at the red circle. The background is a light blue with large, overlapping circles in shades of blue and red.

**Toddlers!**



# What is Early Literacy?

**E**arly literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school. You can help your child learn important skills now so they can become good readers later. The five skills to practice with your

child are Reading, Singing, Talking, Playing, and Writing. Developing these skills now will give your child a strong foundation for future learning and growing!

## Toddler's EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

**Y**ou are your child's first teacher – children learn best by doing things, and they love doing things with you! As someone who knows your child best, you are in a great position to help your child practice these skills that become building blocks for reading, writing, and learning about the world!

### READ

Reading together helps your child learn new stories, ideas, and situations. You can develop your child's love of learning through stories, even if it is just a few pages at a time!

### WRITE

When children use a pen or pencil, it helps develop those fine motor skills they will need later on. Drawing shapes, scribbles, and doodling are all important parts of preparing to learn how to write, and can help them get used to controlling their pencil.

### TALK

Conversations can help your child learn new words, develop speaking and storytelling skills, and help them understand what they are reading or experiencing.

### SING

Singing breaks words into smaller pieces and helps your child hear the differences in language. Singing also encourages children to have fun with words, learn about rhyming, and express themselves creatively! Share songs with your child, and help them create their own!

### PLAY

Playing is how children learn and make sense of the world. Imaginative pretend play, building with blocks, indoor and outdoor games, interacting with others – all build important cognitive and social skills that children practice during play!

## READING MILESTONES

YOUR CHILD @

**18 - 24 MONTHS**

- May say some of the words and phrases in familiar books.
- May want to hear a favorite story over and over again for fun and comfort.
- May like to carry favorite books around when on the go.

YOUR CHILD @

**2 - 3 YEARS**

- Learns to handle books with paper pages.
- Names objects in the pictures with your encouragement.
- Can talk about books with your help.
- Relates events in the story to her own experiences.