

LET'S READ AT 12 MONTHS!

This is what it looks like when we read:

I learn from books when you:

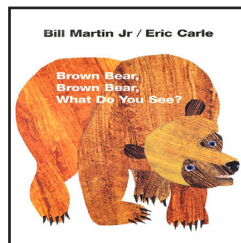
Let's read these books together, too!

You can check out these and other great books in the Monroe County Public Library's Children's area!

- Books are one of my favorite things and I'll carry them around for fun.
- I'm strong enough now to listen sitting up on my own, but I still like to cuddle, too.
- I'll try to use words to name the pictures. Encourage me to keep trying!

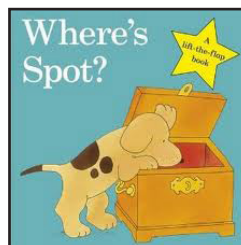
- Ask me questions about the story as we go along.
- Make reading a part of our daily routine, just like breakfast or bath time.
- Sing songs to me with words from the book.

Bring books everywhere we go! Turning pages, lifting flaps, and studying pictures keeps me happy!



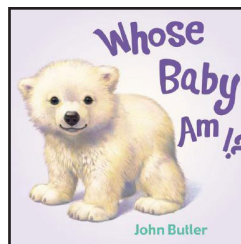
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
A rollicking rhyme with colorful pictures by Eric Carle introduces familiar animals.



Where's Spot?

by Eric Hill
Spot is nowhere to be found. Lift the flaps to find Spot, so that he may have his dinner!



Whose Baby Am I?

by John Butler
Name the parent of each adorable animal baby as you turn the page.

your child @TM

highlights of what's happening
at this stage of your child's development...

12 to 18 months

Your child at 12 to 18 months is developing a real personality. She is still growing rapidly, but not as dramatically as in the first year. As she begins to walk, run and climb, she gains confidence and a greater sense of independence. At this stage, your child needs encouragement and freedom to explore, as well as clear boundaries and limits to feel safe.

your child's health

take note...

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, at 12 months, let your doctor know if your baby:

- Does not crawl.
- Drags one side of body while crawling for over one month.
- Cannot stand while supported.
- Doesn't search for objects that are hidden while he watches.
- Says no single words.
- Does not point to objects or pictures.
- Does not use gestures such as waving or shaking head.

The Well Visit

At your child's one-year check-up, you should expect your doctor to:

- Give certain vaccinations, listed below, which will keep your child healthy and growing strong.

Your next visit may be at 15 or 18 months.

Typical immunizations at this age will include:

- Polio • Hepatitis B • MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Chicken Pox • Hib • Prevnar (pneumococcal)
- DTaP or DTP

Sleep

At around 12 to 18 months, your child needs about 14 hours of sleep in a 24-hour period. At this time, most children start giving up their morning nap and instead take one longer afternoon nap per day. As your child begins to lose the second nap, you may notice he is ready for bed a little earlier while he adjusts to the change — anytime between 6 and 8 pm.

Nutrition

Eating. At 12 months, a baby should eat a balanced diet of healthy foods, such as: squash (vegetable), bananas (fruit), cheese (dairy), or chicken (meat).

All foods should be cut into small pieces so that the child can feed independently without the risk of choking. Foods you should AVOID include:

- Raw carrots
- Popcorn
- Nuts
- Hot dogs
- Hard candy
- Whole grapes

Because your baby is still exploring most foods, she probably won't eat a lot at a single sitting. So, try to provide five or six small meals a day instead of three larger ones.

Drinking. By 12 months, your baby is ready to stop drinking formula and begin drinking up to 24 ounces of whole milk a day. He should be drinking from a cup rather than a bottle. Don't forget to offer water throughout the day.

keep in mind...

Now that your child has teeth, you should brush them daily with a baby toothbrush and water.

your child's growth and development

Between 12 and 18 months, your child might be able to:

Physically

- Walk without help.
- Enjoy holding objects while walking — often one in each hand.
- Hold a crayon and scribble (but with little control).
- Gesture or point to indicate what she wants.
- Turn pages in a book.
- Like to push, pull and dump things.

Intellectually

- Understand and follow simple, one step directions.
- Say about 8 to 20 understandable words, including "hi" and "bye" if reminded.
- Identify objects in a book, if prompted.
- Pay attention to conversations.

Socially and Emotionally

- Enjoy being held and read to.
- Imitate others with sounds and facial expressions.
- Play alone with toys.

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Reviewed and approved by the
American Academy of Pediatrics

Sources: *Your Baby's First Year* and *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child*, American Academy of Pediatrics, Steven P. Shelov, MD, FAAP, editor in chief; *Understanding Children*, Civitas and Richard Saul Wurman; *KidBasics*, Civitas; *Healthy Sleep, Happy Child*, Marc Weissbluth, MD.

Civitas thanks **Parents as Teachers**, an international early childhood parent education and family support program, for their ongoing support.

nurturing your child

Literacy

As your child's vocabulary grows, his interest in books and songs will grow, too. Take advantage of his interests by reading, singing and talking all the time.

- Make reading interactive by asking questions while looking at pictures and reading stories. Even though your child cannot yet answer fully, pay attention to his verbal and non-verbal responses.
- Provide your child with books that can easily be carried by little hands and which offer flaps and textures he can explore.
- Teach new songs and incorporate hand movements such as "Pat-a-Cake" and "Itsy-Bitsy Spider."

Discipline

Your child's growing sense of independence will push her to test her behavior with you. This is the right time to set a few limits. Your child's first rules should help protect her safety and be enforced clearly and consistently. You can also try these age-appropriate discipline techniques:

- Stay one step ahead. Distract or redirect your child from unsafe objects or activities.
- Save "no" primarily for safety issues. If your child hears "no" too often, she will start to tune it out.
- Use non-verbal communication. Give a stern or firm look for minor incidents.

Play

Your child's desire and ability to do things on her own will extend to her play. So, allow your child to use toys in any way she wants. When your child is able to explore freely, she learns to imagine, invent and problem solve. Other considerations:

- Plan play dates. Consider your child's nap time so she won't be too tired to spend time with her new friend. Remember, children at this age are too young to be expected to share.
- Allow time for your child to play alone. Independent play allows him to choose and direct the activity, and helps build confidence.
- Try new ways to play games like peek-a-boo and introduce new toys she can push and pull, or items she can stack such as boxes or cups.



take note...

Never use spanking or other physical punishment. Spanking is never an effective form of discipline.

your child's safety

As your child becomes increasingly mobile and curious, you must make "child-proofing" your home a priority.

In the Car

- When your child is at least 12 months old and weighs at least 20 pounds, she can ride in a forward facing car seat (although the AAP recommends that babies remain rear-facing as long as possible) in the backseat of the car.
- For more information, go to www.fitforakid.org.

take note...

Now is the time make sure the mattress on the crib is lowered all the way. It is also important to keep the side rail up when your child is in bed.

Around Your House

- Block staircases and the kitchen with gates, install safety latches on toilets, drawers, and cabinets or anyplace where cleaning materials are kept.
- Cover sharp edges, electric outlets and fireplaces.
- Keep hot liquids out of reach.
- Make sure window treatments are not strangling hazards and install window guards to prevent your child from falling out.
- Call Poison Control immediately if you think your child has eaten or drunk something poisonous:
1-800-222-1222.

*Born Learning*SM is a public engagement campaign helping parents, caregivers and communities create early learning opportunities for young children. Designed to support you in your critical role as a child's first teacher, *Born Learning* educational materials are made available through the efforts of United Way, United Way Success By 6 and Civitas. For more information, visit us online at www.bornlearning.org.





TIPS | for parents of Babies

It's never too early to read to your baby. As soon as your baby is born, he or she starts learning. Just by talking to, playing with, and caring for your baby every day, you help your baby develop language skills necessary to become a reader. By reading with your baby, you foster a love of books and reading right from the start. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

■ Snuggle up with a book

When you hold your baby close and look at a book together, your baby will enjoy the snuggling and hearing your voice as well as the story. Feeling safe and secure with you while looking at a book builds your baby's confidence and love of reading.

■ Choose baby-friendly books

Books with bright and bold or high-contrast illustrations are easier for young babies to see, and will grab their attention. Books made of cloth or soft plastic (for the bathtub) or "board books" with sturdy cardboard pages are easier for a baby to handle.

■ Keep books where your baby can reach them

Make sure books are as easy to reach, hold, and look at as toys. Remember, a baby will do with a book what he does with everything else—put it in his mouth. And that's exactly what he's supposed to do, so you may only want to put chewable books within reach.

■ Talk with your baby—all day long

Describe the weather or which apples you are choosing at the grocery. Talk about the pictures in a book or things you see on a walk. Ask questions. By listening, your child learns words, ideas, and how language works.

■ Encourage your baby's coos, growls, and gurgles

They are your baby's way of communicating with you, and are important first steps toward speech. Encourage attempts to mimic you. The more your baby practices making sounds, the clearer they will become. Go ahead and moo, woof and honk!

■ Give baby a hand!

Encourage your baby to pick up crackers or peas, touch noses and toes, point to pictures and grab toys. The muscles in those little hands will grow strong, agile, and ready to turn pages.

■ Develop a daily routine (and make reading a part of it)

Routines can soothe a baby, and let a baby learn to predict what will happen next. The ability to predict is important when your child is older and is reading independently.

■ Sing, Read, Repeat

Read favorite stories and sing favorite songs over and over again. Repeated fun with books will strengthen language development and positive feelings about reading.

■ "Read" your baby

Pay attention to how your baby reacts to the book you are reading. Stop if your baby isn't enjoying the story and try another book or another time.

Visit www.ReadingRockets.org for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future through reading.