• Just for Baby Times
  Tiny-to-Two
  Baby and Me

• Family Storytimes

• Songs, rhymes, and finger plays

• Board books for babies,
  picture books too

• Toys to take home

• A special Learn and Play Space

• Programs and resources
  for parents

Library Cards
You can get a library card for baby. Library cards are free for all county residents. Apply at the Main Library, Ellettsville Branch, on the library bookmobile, or on our website.

Library Hours
Monday-Thursday  9 a.m.-9 p.m.
  Friday       9 a.m.-6 p.m.
  Saturday    9 a.m.-5 p.m.
  Sunday     1-5 p.m.

The Ellettsville Branch opens at
10 a.m., Monday-Friday.

Friends Bookstore
Gently used books and more for all ages
  Tuesday  11 a.m.-7 p.m.
  Thursday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
  Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Contact Us
Children’s Services  812.349.3100
  Email  childref@mcpl.info
  Website  mcpl.info/childrens
  Facebook  facebook.com/mcplkids

Monroe County
Public Library
Main Library
303 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47408
812.349.3050

Ellettsville Branch
600 W. Temperance St.
Ellettsville, IN 47429
812.876.1272
This is what it looks like when we read:

I learn from books when you:

Let’s read these books together, too!

Board books are made to stand up to anything! Big shapes and bold colors help my eyes to get strong.

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

• I want to feel the book. Is it hard or soft? Smooth or rough?
• I love to get a long look at the pictures and words.
• Reading can look more like chewing! It’s normal for me to put books in my mouth.

• Snuggle up with me.
• Make fun sounds and songs to go with the story.
• Read me stories again and again. I learn more from them every time!

Baby Faces
by Margaret Miller
Babies will enjoy these close-up pictures of baby faces with different expressions.

Look at Baby’s House!
by Peter Linenthal
New babies will love to focus on these black and white illustrations that tell a simple story.

Spot’s First Shapes
by Eric Hill
Using simple illustration and textures, Spot the puppy explores basic shapes.
By the end of your baby's first year of life, she might already be crawling and trying to take her first steps. Remember that a warm, responsive and dependable adult caregiver is the most essential ingredient to her healthy development.

The Well Visit
Your baby will probably have well visits at six months and again at nine months.

Sleep
At this stage, your baby still needs two or possibly three naps a day — a morning, afternoon, and late day nap. Put your baby down to sleep for the night between 6 and 8 pm, and expect her to sleep 11 to 13 hours. However, even as late as eight or nine months, she may still wake for a night feeding — especially if she's being breastfed.

keep in mind...
- If your baby doesn't like a new food, don't give up — re-introduce it in a few days. Often a baby needs to try a food several times before he will eat it.
- Avoid foods that could cause choking such as whole grapes, popcorn, uncooked carrots, hot dogs, nuts or hard candy.

Nutrition
Although you might have introduced cereals to your baby over the past few months, she should still be drinking about 24 ounces of breast milk or formula per day.

Once your baby adjusts to cereal, move on to new, single-ingredient foods — fruits and vegetables first; then introduce protein. Experiment with mashed or pureed foods, but remember to introduce only one food type at a time for at least two to three days to detect allergies and sensitivities.

At around nine months, your baby should eat three meals a day while still receiving breast milk or formula. Serve soft, easily gummed and digestible finger foods cut into safe, bite-sized pieces. He'll love small pieces of cheese, steamed vegetables and fruit or Cheerios. Avoid foods that need to be chewed. He should also begin drinking from a sippy cup, and by his first birthday (or soon after), he should be weaned from the bottle.

take note...
According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, you should let your doctor know if your baby:
...at 6 months:
- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles.
- Seems very floppy, like a rag doll.
- Refuses to cuddle.
- Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people.
- Cannot sit with help.
- Does not laugh or squeal.
- Does not actively reach for objects.

...at 9 months:
- Drags one side of body while crawling (for over a month).
- Does not point to objects or pictures.
- Does not search for objects that are hidden while he watches.
your child’s growth and development (continued)

Socially and Emotionally
At 6–9 months, your baby will probably:
- Try to talk to image of self in mirror.
- Become distressed if a toy is taken away.
- Respond to own name and recognize family members’ names.
- Show mild to severe anxiety at separation from parent.

At 9–12 months, your baby will probably:
- Offer toys or objects to others but want them to be returned.
- Push away toys or foods when she doesn’t want them.
- Become attached to a favorite toy or blanket.

nurturing your child

Attachment
Over the next months, your child will show her strong attachment to her primary caregiver by acting upset when she leaves and happy when she returns. To ease the anxiety caused by separating:
- Say goodbye, so she learns that you will come back.
- Explain that you are going to leave, but that you’ll return.
- Provide a comfort object that will make her feel close to you.

Discipline
At this age, a baby still doesn’t understand discipline. Instead, as your child gains mobility, your focus should turn to safety and exploration:
- Distract or redirect your baby from unsafe objects or activities.
- Never use physical punishment.

Play
At this age, a baby will use play as a chance to develop new cognitive, physical and social skills. Watch your child — you can learn so much about your child’s interests by simply observing. In addition:
- Provide tummy time to help strengthen the neck, torso, and upper body as well as time to practice walking, pushing, pulling, climbing and jumping.
- Play hide-and-seek with different objects. Your child will enjoy seeing the objects appear and disappear.
- Sing songs with repetitive verses and hand motions that will interest your baby, such as The Wheels on the Bus.
- Provide books that are made of cardboard or cloth to withstand a little chewing and make page turning easier.

your child’s safety

As your baby begins to crawl, he will want to touch everything he can — this is how he learns about his world. Therefore, make his environment safe.
- Install safety latches on cabinets, drawers, and toilets.
- Cover unused electrical outlets with outlet covers and use cleats to secure dangling cords on drapes and blinds.
- Gate staircases and steps, cover sharp edges of furniture and ledges on fireplaces.
- Keep older children’s toys out of your baby’s reach. These may have small parts that can be a choking hazard for your little one.
- Keep all detergents, medicines, sharp objects out of your child’s reach.
- Contact Poison Control immediately if you think your child has eaten or drunk something poisonous:
  1-800-222-1222.

keep in mind...
Always be aware of your baby’s safety. Never leave her unattended near water, open windows, fireplaces or any electrical appliances. Watch her carefully when she is in the kitchen or bathroom where potential dangers are everywhere.
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.