



Communication, Language, and Literacy Activity for 6 to 12 Months

Read, Read, Read

Reading is one of the best activities for language development.

Materials:

- Books

What to do:

1. Read with children every day. Young toddlers enjoy short, simple stories, rhymes, and songs. Read the same books over and over and also read new ones. Because young toddlers won't pay attention too long, it's best to read for a short while many times during the day.
2. Point to the pictures and name the objects. Ask the child to point and name things, too. Smile, change your tone of voice, nod, and make faces when you read. The child will have fun copying your words and actions.
3. Let the child choose the books and set the pace for reading. Read books with thick, cardboard pages so that she can turn the pages. You don't have to look at every page, read the whole page, or finish the book at one sitting.
4. Provide books that appeal to the child. Toddlers like books with simple drawings and photographs of familiar objects, animals, and scenes from daily life, such as taking a bath, eating, or playing outdoors.
5. Store cardboard, cloth, and plastic books on low, open shelves along with other safe toys.

Variation:

Make a book about the things the toddler does during the day. Paste photographs or simple drawings on cardboard, cover with clear adhesive paper, punch holes in the cover and finished pages, and bind with a piece of string. Make new books periodically.

