

FACT SHEET #9

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOOK

Since your baby's attention span is limited and he cannot sit still for long, the books he'll find most interesting are those with simple, recognizable pictures and not much text. These kinds of books let you sit with your child and look through them, naming the objects, animals and people. You'll have fun making connections with similar people and things in your child's life: **"Look at the bird, he's in a tree, just like the one in front of our house!"**, **"Oh look, here's a grandmother rocking a little baby just like you!"**



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As your child grows and starts walking and exploring more of his world, the books he'll enjoy most are **picture books**. You can look at the pictures with him and **name the objects** in the book to expand his vocabulary. Since he's at an age where he's becoming increasingly aware of others around him, he'll be fascinated by **books that have photographs**, especially photos of children.

He's also starting to learn the names of some of the parts of his body. You can show him picture books on that topic and ask him to point to them with his finger or **name a part of the body**: "Look, the little boy is washing his hair", "Show me the baby's nose".

"Hunt and seek" books and books with flaps that your child can lift are also a great way for the two of

you to interact. Your child will have fun looking and discovering new things. He'll feel proud when he guesses what's under the flaps or when he locates objects you ask him to find.

Gradually, **short stories**, especially stories about **topics that reflect your child's own experiences** (e.g., bedtime, going to the park, sharing toys, the arrival of a baby brother or sister, using the potty) will start to take on greater interest. Since you know what he likes and what happens in his daily life, you can go beyond the words of the story and **ask your child questions**. If he isn't talking much yet, it can be fun to ask questions and answer them at the same time: "Where's the little boy? On the swing at the park. Wheel! He's having fun with his friends!"

Later, **simple stories that have a beginning, a main action and an ending** will start to appeal more to your child. Since his imagination is growing fast, he'll enjoy listening to stories and making up his own endings. In this case it can be fun to stop reading for a moment and **ask your child to imagine what will happen next** (e.g., "What do you think will happen to Little Red Riding Hood when she gets to her grandmother's house?").

The older your child gets, the more he'll identify with the characters in the stories. He'll enjoy **series of books featuring the same character or characters** (such as *Caillou* or *Toopy and Binoo*). Your child will enjoy seeing his "hero" in a new adventure and **talking about it with you at the end of the story**.

One fun activity to do together is to make up a story with your child in which the main character is the hero of one of his favourite books.

This is a great way for you to enjoy being creative together!
