

**Read to Me**



**It Matters!**

## **Ten Tips for Reading Aloud to Infants and Toddlers**

*Adapted from Durham's Partnership for Children*

1. Take every opportunity to read aloud —while waiting in the doctor's office, pushing the cart in the grocery store, at the breakfast table, as a nightly bedtime ritual.
2. Make reading come alive by talking about what you are reading. This will help your child associate the story with real-life experiences.
3. Read for as long as your baby/toddler can pay attention. Gradually read for longer periods of time as their attention spans grow. Put the book away as your child loses interest.
4. Board books work best for babies who prefer bright pictures against solid backgrounds and stories that feature only one or two objects per page.
5. Encourage a baby to join in—moo like a cow or finish a repetitive phrase.
6. Play with words, sing and make up rhymes; include the baby's name. Toddlers too enjoy rhymes, which facilitate a feeling of competency and mastery by encouraging participation through predictable words that toddlers can remember.
7. Read books that reinforce what a toddler knows. Talk about size, color, shape and time.
8. Toddlers also enjoy reading about daily routines such as using the toilet, taking a bath and brushing teeth.
9. Repetition is not a bad thing. Toddlers enjoy reading the same books again and again and again and again!
10. When discussing pictures, focus on the details your toddler might overlook.