

Stages of Literacy

From Judith Shickedanz, author of *Much More Than The ABCs*

Early Literacy Behavior	Infant to 12 Months	12-18 months	18-24 months	24-36 months
Book Handling	Holding and chewing on books, exploring textures, gross motor development, crossing midline, learning to coordinate hands and eyes	Hand and eyes working together to manipulate objects with intention, correct book orientation, holds onto books, turns pages	Turns paper pages, begins to scribble	Cares for books, colors, imitates lines, circles with intention
Looking and Recognizing	Vision Developing, Awareness of hands and feet	Looks at and points to pictures	Attention span fluctuates, pointing to familiar pictures	Attention span growing still fluctuates, searches for favorite pictures
Picture and Story Comprehension	Attends to pictures, touches or pats pictures	Beginning expressive vocabulary, points to and names objects, learns that words have meaning	Growing expressive vocabulary	Idea of plot emerges, coordinates text with picture
Story Reading	Building trust, developing attachment with caregivers, enjoying book experiences with caregivers, attending to sounds and voices	"Asks" for stories to be read by carrying books to caregivers	Fills in words or familiar phrases, "read" aloud, recites familiar packages, learns that print is symbolic	"Reads" to self, protests/corrects when adult gets a word wrong, recites phrases, songs, and may recite stories