

Twenty ways to play with books with your baby and toddler...



- 1. CHOOSE A BOOK WITH A MIRROR AND HAVE FUN HOLDING THE MIRROR TO YOUR WEE ONE'S FACE. SAY, "I SEE YOU!" (YOUR CHILD'S NAME) AND "PEEK-A-BOO!". TAKE TURNS LOOKING IN THE MIRROR.**
- 2. SING ALONG TO YOUR FAVOURITE NURSERY RHYME PICTURE BOOK. POINT TO THE PICTURES AND USE ACTIONS THAT MATCH THE WORDS OF THE SONGS. WHEN YOUR WEE ONE KNOWS THE RHYMES AND ACTIONS, PAUSE AND WAIT AT THE REPETITIVE BITS AND LET THEM PROMPT YOU TO KEEP GOING. THEY MIGHT LOOK, SMILE, OR BOUNCE UP AND DOWN.**
- 3. EXPLORE DIFFERENT TEXTURES TOGETHER WITH A TOUCH AND FEEL BOOK. DESCRIBE HOW THE DIFFERENT TEXTURES FEEL AS YOUR WEE ONE TOUCHES THEM.**
- 4. TALK TO YOUR CHILD WHEN THEY ARE EXPLORING A BOOK WITH THEIR HANDS. SAY "OPEN" AND "SHUT" EACH TIME THEY OPEN AND SHUT THE BOOK.**
- 5. MAKE ANIMAL NOISES AND DIFFERENT SOUNDS TO MATCH THE PICTURES YOUR CHILD IS LOOKING AT. INTRODUCE TOY ANIMALS, DINOSAURS OR VEHICLES AND SHOW THEM AS YOU SEE THE PICTURES AND MAKE THE SOUNDS "RAAAR", "BRUUUM", "MIAOW" ETC.**
- 6. PLAY WITH BOOKS AT BATH TIME. BATH BOOKS ARE GREAT FOR SQUEEZING, SPLASHING, FLOATING, AND STICKING TO THE SIDE OF THE BATH. PRETEND THE BOOK IS A SNAPPY CROCODILE.**
- 7. CREATE EXCITEMENT BY MAKING EXAGGERATED FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND VOICES WHEN YOU OPEN A BOOK OR TURN ONE OF THE PAGES. SAY "WOW!" AND POINT TO SHOW THAT SOMETHING HAS SURPRISED OR AMAZED YOU.**
- 8. POINT TO AND NAME THINGS IN THE BOOK THAT YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD LIKES. SAY "LOOK A" PAUSE AND WAIT, THEN NAME THE THING FOR THEM IF THEY DON'T.**

"SO SMOOTH"



9. LIFT THE FLAP BOOKS ARE GREAT FOR PLAYING GAMES AND CREATING ANTICIPATION; BEFORE SEEING WHAT IS HIDING UNDER EACH CLOSED FLAP, SAY “PEEK A BOO”, “READY, STEADY... GO!” OR “COMING, READY OR NOT!

10. USE BOOKS WITH FINGER HOLES OR FINGER PUPPETS TO PLAY ALONG WITH A STORY, SONG, OR RHYME.



11. BLOW KISSES TO A FAVOURITE CHARACTER IN A PICTURE BOOK; REPEAT OVER AND OVER AND SEE IF YOUR WEE ONE CAN COPY WHAT YOU ARE DOING.



12. WAVE AND SAY “HELLO” AND “GOODBYE” TO THE CHARACTERS IN A BOOK, AS YOU OR YOUR CHILD TURNS EACH PAGE.



13. TRY KNOCKING ON A PAGE OF THE BOOK, PRETENDING IT'S A DOOR TO BE OPENED. SAY “KNOCK-KNOCK” BEFORE TURNING THE PAGE AND ENCOURAGE YOUR WEE ONE TO USE THEIR OWN HAND TO KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

14. PRETEND TO FEED THE ANIMALS IN A STORY BOOK WHILE TALKING ABOUT WHAT THEY LIKE TO EAT AND HOW TASTY THE FOOD IS. YOU CAN USE PRETEND FOOD OR YOUR CHILD'S SNACK TO DO THIS.

15. MAKE UP A SONG WHILE LOOKING AT A PICTURE BOOK. PICK A TUNE THAT YOUR WEE ONE IS FAMILIAR WITH AND NAME EACH PICTURE WHILE YOU ARE SINGING. “TWINKLE, TWINKLE, I SEE A CAT, SITTING ON THE FLUFFY MAT”.

16. WRAP A BOOK IN FABRIC OR PAPER BEFORE GIVING IT TO YOUR CHILD TO UNWRAP AND EXPLORE.

17. USE PIECES OF PLAYDOUGH, FABRIC, OR PAPER TO COVER UP PICTURES IN A BOARD BOOK AND ENCOURAGE YOUR WEE ONE TO PICK IT OFF AND SEE WHAT'S HIDING UNDERNEATH. NAME THE PICTURES FOR THEM AS THEY 'FIND' THEM.

18. SIT TOGETHER UNDER A BLANKET AND SHINE A TORCH ON DIFFERENT PICTURES IN A BOOK. TALK TO YOUR WEE ONE ABOUT EACH PICTURE AS IT IS LIT UP.



19. FIND OBJECTS FROM AROUND THE HOUSE THAT MATCH PICTURES IN A BOOK. HELP YOUR CHILD TO MATCH THE PICTURES WITH THE REAL-LIFE OBJECTS AND NAME WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING AT.

20. SHARE A BOOK WITH PICTURES OF THINGS THAT YOUR CHILD LOVES; THIS COULD BE TRAINS, DINOSAURS, OR A TV CHARACTER. IT MIGHT EVEN BE A PHOTO BOOK WITH PHOTOS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS OR FAVOURITE TOYS AND PLACES. YOU CAN WRITE THE WORDS UNDERNEATH IF YOU WANT TO.



Don't worry if your child seems more interested in chewing a book or flipping the pages with their hands. Board books, cloth books and bath books are great for playing with whether you are at home, or out and about. Follow your child's lead and respond to whatever attracts your child's attention. Let your child choose the book and how they play with it, copy their actions and sounds and repeat simple words as much as you can. Remember that you don't need to read all the words, just talk about what your child looks at or does with the book. Read aloud to your child and use books to inspire ideas for activities such as dressing up and playing with puppets. Have fun.