



## Creepers as Readers

Just as older infants begin to "creep" into the world around them, exploring and discovering, they also are able to explore the world of books in new and exciting ways. They begin to pay more attention to the pictures and words. Sometimes they will hand you books and may even have a favorite one. You can support them along their way by using the following tips.

- Let your reading time follow your child's attention span. Don't worry about reading every page of a book. You can skip some pages or talk about the illustrations.
- Choose books of poetry and nursery rhymes to give your child experience with a variety of language patterns and sounds. Many times this type of writing is easy and fun for both you and your child to remember.

Throughout the day, enjoy these rhymes and their repetitious sounds.

- Select books about animals and have fun imitating their sounds. Books with realistic pictures and those made from your own photos are also good choices.
- Give older infants cardboard and chunky books that have easy-to-turn pages. Let your child take the lead in handling and gaining confidence with books.
- Keep some books on a low shelf or in a basket so your child can make her own selections.
- Offer your child books as often as you would a toy. Build a literacy rich environment from the very start.
- Read whenever you can. Look for opportunities such as when a baby is sitting in the high chair or while you're waiting in a line or at the doctor's office.

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