



Storytime, anytime!

Newborn to 9 months

TALK!
Halton

A child's journey towards literacy begins at birth, so it is never too early to share books and stories with your baby. They will love spending time with you, hearing your voice and looking at the bright pictures.

At this age babies need to explore their environment so let them discover books on their terms, exploring with their fingers and mouths as well as their eyes. It doesn't matter if they hold it upside down, grab or chew on it, you are helping them to start their literacy journey.

TOP TIPS

-  Young babies are not interested in the words in a book. Look for books that will stimulate your baby's senses such as texture books, fabric books, high contrast images, feely patches, mirrors etc.
-  When you share a book with a young baby, don't worry about finishing the book or even turning pages in the right direction. Just enjoy playing with the book as if it's a toy, and talk about what your baby shows an interest in.
-  It's okay to share the same book again and again, familiar books can be comforting and build confidence.
-  Look for signs your baby is interested in sharing a book together and take a break when they look like they are getting bored such as looking away, arching their back, closing their eyes or crying.
-  As babies get a little older they might start to recognise the book sharing routine by calming, widening their eyes, or smiling and kicking to show excitement.

Babies love listening to the voices of familiar people. Sharing books right from the start will help your baby to look, listen and think.

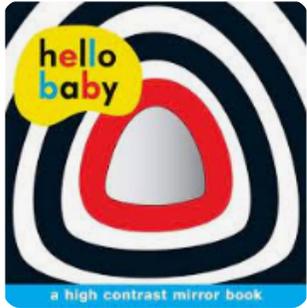
Although it seems babies are too young to enjoy being read to, they're learning something new at every stage.



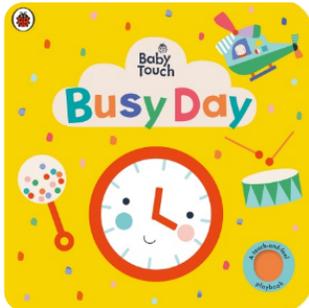
Beginning early is important because the roots of language are developing in a baby's brain even before they can talk! The more words your baby hears, the more words they learn.

Start their life long love of reading today

BOOK SUGGESTIONS



'hello baby' is a range of high contrast board and fabric books by Roger Priddy. They include bright and bold illustrations and patterns that are great for visual stimulation in the first few weeks and months of life.



Ladybirds 'Baby Touch' books include textured patches to touch, feel and explore. High-contrast colours and touch-and-feels stimulate a baby's senses, while encouraging interaction and play.



DK 'Baby Touch and Feel' books are great for your baby's early learning and sensory experiences as they enjoy exploring the different textures

For other book recommendations take a look at



There are a wide range of books available at your local library. Libraries and visiting libraries regularly can help promote a love of reading and a love of sharing books from a young age.



To join the local library or to find/reserve a book

[click here](#)

TOP TIPS FOR SHARING STORIES

S	Shhhh!	Find a quiet space away from distractions where you can share stories together.
T	Talk	Take your time and talk about the pictures as you go.
O	Often	Share books together often. 5 minutes a day is better than half an hour once a week!
R	Retell	Retell your baby's favourite stories as this will really support their language development.
I	Interests	Sharing books that follow your baby's interests will really help to engage them.
E	Explore	Allow your baby to explore the books in their own way, this might be with their mouths.
S	Sounds	Bring stories to life by using silly voices and sound effects.