

WELCOME

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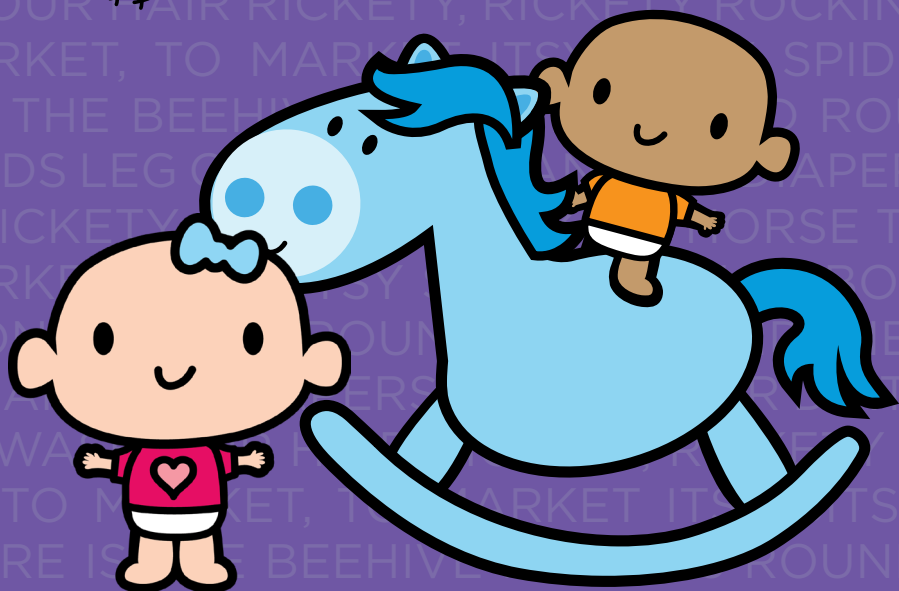
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“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.”

—Albert Einstein



read. talk. play.

EARLY LITERACY AT EPL



MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE IS FUN AND EASY

A child's experience in the first three years directly impacts later development and learning. Strong language and reading skills will help your child go further and succeed in school, find future employment, have a higher income as an adult and be healthier and happier throughout life.

There are five simple and powerful activities that you can do with your child every day and that stimulate brain and cognitive development and help children develop strong early literacy skills. All it takes is a few minutes every day!

READING

Read together every day and snuggle in close while reading. This safe and loving connection supports your baby's ability to learn new things.

TALKING

Talk with your baby all the time! Naming objects helps increase your baby's vocabulary. Responding to your baby's sounds helps teach patterns of conversation.

PLAYING

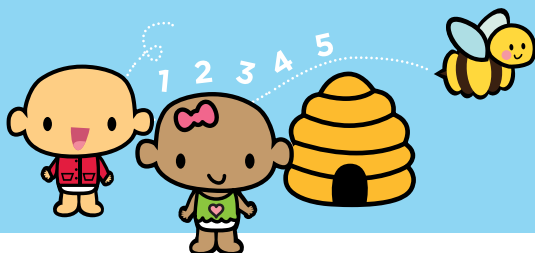
Create opportunities for your baby to play with toys, with household objects (such as empty food containers and wooden spoons) and, most importantly, with you!

SINGING

Sing songs during daily routines (such as diaper changes and baths) or difficult moments to keep your baby happy and engaged.

WRITING

Let your baby play with toys and items that are different shapes, such as building blocks and balls. This helps them practice hand-eye coordination and develop the muscles they will need for drawing and writing when they get older.



Learn more at epl.ca/earlyliteracy



GIVE YOUR BABY AN ADVANTAGE

As your baby's first and best teacher, you can give your baby strong language skills by having fun, daily interactions: open a book, share a song and tickle tiny toes. By interacting with babies, we are helping their brains build connections and develop to their fullest potential.

BABIES LOVE BOOKS. THEY'RE DELICIOUS!



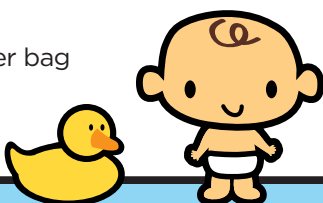
- Babies explore books with their hands and mouths. Board books are great for chewing and are easy to clean!
- Let your baby play with books and turn the pages.
- It's never too early to read to your baby. Children who are read to by someone they love are more likely to become readers.

FIND YOUR BABY'S FAVOURITE BOOK

- The Library has many free books that are perfect for your baby's interests and developmental stage.
- Babies love seeing images of other babies in books.
- Books with high-contrast, black and white images are perfect for developing eyes.
- Older babies love to explore books with flaps, textures and cut outs.

YOU AND YOUR BABY: A PERFECT TEAM

- You know your baby best. Choose times to read when your baby is in a good mood. Don't worry if your child gets fussy—stop reading and try again later.
- Point at pictures and describe them. Follow your baby's eyes for cues about what they are interested in learning.
- Carry a book in your diaper bag for instant entertainment.



Visit your local branch for more details
about EPL's many free resources.

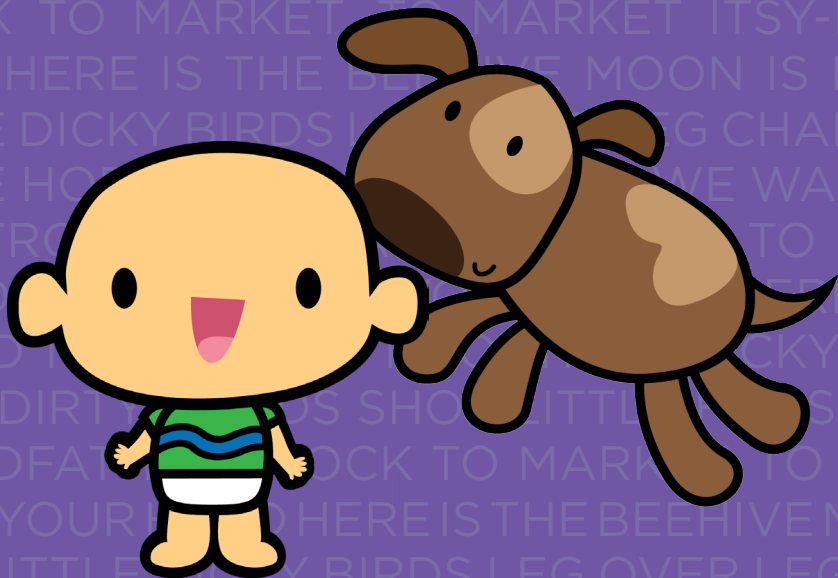
EASY AS...



- 1.** Come to any EPL branch to enjoy our spaces, access expert information and find millions of items to borrow.
- 2.** Attend any of our fun-filled, free early literacy classes.
- 3.** Get your baby a free library card. Your baby will also receive a *second free package*, including another board book and a song and rhyme booklet!



For hours and locations, visit epl.ca/hours.



WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES AND COVENANT HEALTH IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE MATERIALS.

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