

# SHARE STEP

## Book Sharing with Babies and Toddlers

**SHARE** ways you can share a book with a baby or toddler.

**STEP** ideas for how you can respond.

### SHARE

**S**nuggle  
**H**ands On  
**A**ffection  
**R**espond  
**E**njoy

### STEP

**S**tretch words  
**T**alk about pictures  
**E**xplore sounds  
**P**atience

**Why?** According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, reading aloud to babies has a long lasting effect on language and literacy development, and reading skills. Sharing books joyfully makes a difference!



### SHARE

**Snuggle:** If your child likes to snuggle or cuddle, do so while sharing books.

**Hands on:** Let your baby or toddler hold and handle the book. It's fine if your baby chews on the book. They are learning how books work.

**Affection:** Reading in a loving way with your baby or toddler helps build strong relationships and trust. Reading together is love-ly.

**Respond to the child** using these STEP activities:

### STEP

- **S-t-r-e-t-c-h word sounds** so your child can hear them more easily. Use "parentese," high pitch voice, speak slowly and clearly.
- **Talk about the pictures** using lots of words. Don't worry if your child cannot understand all you say.
- **Explore word sounds** in fun ways—sounds of animals, cars, trains
- **Patience** helps when your child gets frustrated and goes a long way in helping your child enjoy books. It's fine to stop before the book is done, and share another time.

**Enjoy the process.** Most of all, have fun!

