

the ladybird early years reading timeline



start!

Reading books with children is beneficial to their all-round development and offers quality bonding time. Introducing books from a young age helps develop life-long positive reading behaviours. Why not make reading books part of your daily routine?

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0-3 months

Babies recognise and love your smile and start becoming familiar with your voice. Eye contact, singing songs and nursery rhymes on repeat will help them to recognise musical patterns.

top tip!

If you have a local library, register your child.



3-6 months

They are beginning to move their body more, hold objects in their hands and react to different sounds. Introducing a range of fabric, bath and board books will help develop their sensory development.

top tip!

Black and white high contrast books will be more engaging at this age, as their vision is still developing.



6-12 months

They have started to sit up and can hold books with a tight grip, exploring with their senses through taste and pictures. They will love books that are full of colour and easy-to-read.

top tip!

Making a book that includes photographs of their favourite grown-ups, food and things to do will help them to make connections and support their memory development.



1 year +

They might start crawling, walking or saying and copying their first words. They love it when you use funny voices when reading and books that have flaps that they can lift.

top tip!

If you ask them where something is in a book you have read them a few times, they may point towards it.



2 years +

They are beginning to copy words, and may have a few favourite books they like to sing along with or join in with repeating the words. At this stage, reading can help introduce topics such as potty training.

top tip!

When you are out and about, have a few books on hand for them to read as it reinforces the idea that books can be read anywhere.



3 years +

They know that the print in books has meanings. They are likely to have a favourite book which they like to be read to them often. Provide them with a range of fiction and non-fiction books that speak to their interest.

top tip!

Books can help support your child with any feelings that they may have on topics such as bereavement or going to the dentist.



4-5 years

They are beginning to read words and easy sentences. They adore funny books and will laugh out loud! Share a diverse range of books with them with positive images of different people and their communities.

top tip!

After they have read a book, encourage them to make marks, draw or write about the book. This will help your child to build on what they have learnt and share their story with you.

