



Free!

Library membership
+
the BoekStart case
+
two books!

**0-4
years**

Reading aloud to young children



BoekStart

de Bibliotheek





3-4
months

Exploring books

Your baby still sees a book as a toy, as something to fiddle with, wave around, hit or put in their mouth. Books especially for babies can withstand this treatment. If you look at books regularly together, your baby will soon discover the difference between a book and other toys. Your baby will listen to your voice while exploring the book. Describe what's in the pictures, make animal noises or sing a suitable song. If your baby is distracted for a moment by something else, point something out in the book or make a sound to attract their attention again. However, if they've really had enough, put the book away for now and try again later.

2-3
months

Cosy and cuddly

Babies enjoy the attention and contact that comes with being read to. It's nice for them to sit comfortably on your lap while you look at a book together. This may only be for a short time at this stage – sometimes just a few minutes – but you can do it several times a day: after a bath or after a feed, for example. This helps make reading a regular habit.

books

- *Milo ziet de wereld in zwart-wit*
Rowena Blyth, Oogappel
- *Bora in de dierentuin*
Deborah van de Leijgraaf, Ploegsma
- *Dag dieren!*
Dick Bruna, Mercis Publishing

Which books are suitable?

We provide Dutch book tips so you can see how big these books are, what material they are made of, and the quantity of illustrations and text they contain. You can find these books in the library or bookshops.

books

- *Spet, spat, Eendje in bad!*
Lucy Cousins, Leopold
- *Baby ziet...*
Kijkboek met spiegelkje
Standaard
- *Dikkie Dik. Rammelboekje*
Jet Boeke, Gottmer
- *Wie ben jij?*
Dick Bruna, Mercis Publishing

5-8
months

Repetition

Watch your baby carefully. What are they paying attention to? Which picture are they looking at? What sounds do they like and which gestures make them laugh? If you pay attention to these things while reading out loud, you can deliberately repeat the funny things and double the fun! Point at the pictures and name the things you can see. Your baby is already starting to follow this. Naturally, however, they will want to do all kinds of things with the book, which may make it difficult to say something about the pictures or point things out. If so, give them a teething ring or a dummy to keep their attention on the book for a little longer.

books

- *Gonnie zoekt Gijsje*
Elly van der Linden
ill. Olivier Dunrea, Gottmer
- *Hallo baby! Lekker spelen*
Roger Priddy / ill. Holly Jackman,
Veltman Uitgevers
- *Hey baby, kijk!*
Laura van Bouchout / ill. Eva
Mouton, Davidsfonds/Infodok
- *Coco babyboekje*
Loes Riphagen, Gottmer

9-12
months

Being read to for a little longer

Babies aged almost a year are getting better at understanding what's in the pictures. They often look at them very attentively and can enjoy being read to for longer. Your baby will also start to point at the pictures, and you can name the things they are pointing out. If you make gestures while reading aloud, your baby will copy you, making reading time extra fun. Read aloud to your baby regularly at fixed times of the day so that it becomes a familiar and welcome habit. This enables you to build a ritual.

books

- *Beestje waar ben je?*
Ingela P. Arrhenius, Gottmer
- *Dierentuin*
Lisa Jones en Edward Underwood, Gottmer
- *Dikkie Dik. Kiekeboek*
Jet Boeke, Gottmer
- *Stapje voor stapje*
Guido Van Genechten, Clavis



12-16
months

Pointing, naming and talking

Children start talking more and more between the ages of one and one and a half. They already know the names of a lot of animals and objects, even if they don't say them all out loud yet. If you look at a picture book together, you can point out and name objects. Give your child the chance to look at the picture properly. Even if it's always the same picture, they will discover something new each time. Describe what you see in your own words as well as reading parts of the text out loud. Then you will notice whether your child understands the words in the book. Try using different words for the same picture. A 'dog' is also an 'animal', and perhaps the dog in the book has a name. This will help your child to learn that there are different words for the same thing. Perhaps you have a dog of your own – if so, involve it as well. This will show your child that the things in the book have to do with the real world.

books

- *Aapje* (a series)
Leen Van Durme, Clavis
- *Babba Baby: Kusjes en knuffels / Dierenpret*
Betty Sluzyer / ill. Milja Praagman, Leopold
- *Geluidenboekje* (a series)
Marion Billet, Clavis
- *Kiekeboe!*
Giuliano Ferri, De Vier Windstreken
- *Van hond tot huis*
Jane Ormes, Ploegsma

16-20
months

A real story

From about one and a half years of age, children become increasingly interested in the figures in the book: what are they doing and experiencing? Describe what's happening in the pictures. Your toddler will recognise and empathise with events in the book such as taking a bath, getting dressed, going shopping, and riding on the bike together. They will discover the connection between the different elements on a page, and understand that one has to do with the other. Talking about this together is enjoyable and expands your toddler's vocabulary. When reading aloud, also use words that have to do with reading and books, such as front cover, back cover, page, turn over. This will enable your toddler to learn about books.

books

- *Fin & Snip* (a series)
Elly van der Linden / ill. Greet Bosschaert, De Eenhoorn
- *Ebbie* (a series)
Marjet Huiberts / ill. Milja Praagman, Gottmer
- *Mijn eerste woorden*
Sibylle Brauer, De Vier Windstreken
- *Nog even achter mijn oortjes kriebelen / Nog even een kusje erop*
Jörg Mühle, Gottmer
- *Krak-Krak, wie is daar?*
Tristan Mory, Oogappel





20-24
months

The interesting outside world

Children approaching the age of two years are becoming more and more interested in the outside world. There's so much to see, to try and to discover; much more than a two-year-old can handle themselves. Much of the outside world is also reflected in books, providing your toddler with the opportunity to learn a lot about the world around them. Easily recognisable subjects include animals, home and garden, cars and trips to various places.

books

- *Wat gaat mama doen?*
Carly Madden / ill. Juliana Perdomo, Gottmer
- *Lieve snoetjes*
Liesbet Slegers, Clavis
- *Rosalie verkleedt zich*
Brigitte Minne / ill. An Candaele, De Eenhoorn
- *Samen met Sam... naar de winkel*
Nick Butterworth, De Eenhoorn
- *Olifantje in het bos*
Annemarie van Haeringen, Leopold



2-2.5
years

A simple story

The pictures can now be a little more complex and detailed. Your toddler is also ready for a picture book with a simple story. This should be about events that are easy for them to recognise, such as stories about a little boy or girl experiencing familiar, everyday things. Having animals in the leading role is also good – your toddler will identify with the characters. The experiences of the characters will help your toddler to process and organise their own experiences. Explore the pictures thoroughly together and talk about what you can see in them.

books

- *De walvis gaat in bad*
Suzanne Strasser, Hoogland & Van Klaveren
- *Die daar*
Mirte Stut en Geurt van Donkelaar, Gottmer
- *Mijn potje*
Anita Bijsterbosch, Clavis
- *Onze hond*
Helen Oxenbury, Christoffor
- *Waar is mijn sok?*
Marijke ten Cate, Lemniscaat

2.5-4
years



Recognisable and stimulating

Watch your toddler carefully. What do they already know and understand? What are they capable of and what are they interested in? Choose a book that suits their interests. Your toddler can manage a real story now. Read a book together that is close to their experience of the world, for example about a child learning to use the potty, going outside, or spending the day at childcare. Your toddler will also want to get an idea of what happens to other children and what they do. The story must be recognisable, and should contain something new in order to stimulate and satisfy their curiosity. Your toddler may still be interested in simpler picture books as well.

books

- *Boer Boris* (a series)
Ted van Lieshout / ill. Philip Hopman, Gottmer
- *Hé, wie zit er op de wc?*
Harmen van Straaten, Leopold
- *Pip en Posy* (a series)
Axel Scheffler, Gottmer
- *Welterusten, Kleine Beer*
Martin Waddell / ill. Barbara Firth, Lemniscaat
- *Wij samen op stap*
Jean Reidy / ill. Leo Timmers, Querido

Song collections

It's fun to sing songs to your baby along with everything you do together. This is reassuring for them and they can move in time with the sounds and rhythm, or you can play a game (such as a clapping game) while singing. And songs and rhymes stay fun for your child as they get older too!

books

- *Bijt-ie in je bil!*
Petra Koeleman (collection)
ill. Geertje Aalders, gezongen
door Ageeth de Haan, Gottmer
- *Daar buiten loopt
een schaap*
Mies van Hout, Lemniscaat
- *De mooiste wiegeliedjes
van hier en elders*
Bart Voet & Esmé Bos
(collection) / ill. Martijn van der
Linden, Davidsfonds/Infodok
- *Poesje Mauw*
Mies van Hout, Lemniscaat

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children, as well as songs
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(Youth Library) 0-6 years.



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Photo: iStock, Stocksy **Design:** Judith Schoffelen and Erik oude Hamhof

