

How to Get Started – Step by Step

Your Baby Can Read! was specifically designed to teach your child how to learn the written patterns of language. Each product in this program can be used to enhance your child's reading ability.

Make sure to use all the color-coded products in each step. Move onto the next volume according to the viewing schedules in the following sections. The purpose for these tools is to help your child learn language skills in a fun, multi-sensory, and interactive manner. Your child's learning can be enhanced by seeing the same words in different formats! Remember to always be excited about the progress your child is making!

Using the DVDs

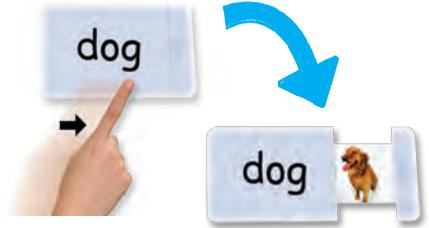
The DVDs are the foundation for teaching your child to read. There are two ways to utilize the DVDs: allow your child to watch the DVDs independently, or watch the DVDs with your child. It is best to watch the DVDs with your child, especially the first few times, however the DVDs were created to have your child interact with the children on screen. When watching the DVDs independently, have your child sit in his highchair or other secure seat.

Play the DVD a couple of times a day. When you have time, sit with your child and direct his or her attention to the words on screen. When you watch the DVDs with your child, point out the words on screen and prompt your child to say or demonstrate the words.



Sliding Word Cards

Begin using the Sliding Word Cards once your child has started watching the DVDs. The Sliding Word Cards are like a low-tech version of the DVDs. Play with these cards a few minutes at a time, several times a day. Your child will start making connections between the words in the DVD and the words she sees on the Sliding Word Cards.



1. Hold the card up for your child so she can see the word.
2. Move your finger under the word from left to right as you say it aloud, mimicking the way the arrow moves under the words in the DVDs.
3. If the word is a body part or action, demonstrate its meaning physically.
4. Point to the word again as you say it.
5. Slide the card open to reveal the meaning of the word as you repeat the word aloud again.



These cards come with an erasable word card and non-toxic pen so you can write down new words for your child to learn! Write the words for things you see around you and have your child point out the objects.

WARNING
Not suitable for children under 36 months due to small parts which may present a choking hazard

Lift-a-Flap Books

Read the Lift-a-Flap books to your child every day.

1. Fold the book over to reveal only one page at a time.
2. Move your finger under the word from left to right as you say it aloud, mimicking the way the arrow moves under the words in the DVDs.
3. When convenient, demonstrate the meaning of the word by using objects, actions, and words.
4. Quickly point to the word again as you say it.
5. If your child is capable, have him lift the flap on his own to reveal the pictures and sentences to make the process more fun and interactive.



6. After you have been using the books for a few weeks, read the sentences and point to the words as you say them. Talk with your child about the images and act the words or actions out with your child to make learning fun! This process will reinforce what your child has learned in the program by making a connection between the words seen in the DVDs and the words seen in the Lift-a-Flap books.

Milestones When Learning to Read as a Baby or Toddler

This section is to help parents know what to look for when teaching their babies and toddlers to read and the steps to take to reach each milestone. While children will eventually meet these milestones on their own, there are things you can do with your child to advance his or her learning.



A few of the milestones may occur in a slightly different order for some children. One of the very first milestones is learning that the shape of the word is the most important factor, so make sure to watch the DVDs and use the additional learning accessories often. They provide multiple styles of words, so your child understands that the word shape is constant and therefore more important.

1 Baby Recognizes His or Her First Written Word:

This first milestone is often the most rewarding! Be patient, as the first word is often the hardest to learn. It is an exciting moment when you notice that your child recognizes his or her first word.

- Repeat a subset of the words more frequently than the other words. These words are great to repeat many times: clap, wave, mouth, and nose.
- After your child has learned his first word, check to see if he knows other words. Placing two words in front of your child (for instance,

“mouth” and “baby”) and ask the child to find one of the words. Do this with many different words and you may be surprised to find out that your child has already learned dozens of words!

My Baby's First Word!

NAME

DATE

AGE

WORD

Comments:

2 Learning the First 50 Words:

- The first 50 words take many months to learn. Be patient and make sure to expose your child to as many words from the first two volumes as possible.
- The pattern of learning to read new words is often similar to how a baby learns to understand words. Once your child understands around 50 words, it will be easier for your child to learn to recognize and read more words.
- Encourage your child to read words that he sees while in the car, at the store, or at home.
- Write names of objects from around the house on the blank erasable card and have your child match the word to the correct object in the house.

3 Learning to Read Two- and Three-Word Phrases and Reading from Left to Right:

Even when young children can read many individual words, they are often overwhelmed when reading a large number of words in a sentence.

- Combine words that your child is familiar with to create two- and three-word phrases. For example, babies who watch our DVDs learn the words “wave” and “hand,” making “wave your hand” a great choice for a three-word phrase.
- Show your child the phrase often and have him demonstrate the meanings of the words. Encourage your child to put new words together to make new phrases.
- Make sure to show your child that words in English are always read from left to right by moving your finger underneath each of the words. Your child will learn that just as words are read from left to right, sentences and phrases are read from left to right.

My Baby's First Phrase!

NAME

DATE

AGE

PHRASE

Comments:

4 Learning to Read Phonetically:

Babies and toddlers are introduced to phonics using our program in a way that is similar to how they learn grammar—by discovering the patterns of the language. Children can do this naturally and easily without any effort or specific instructions. You can teach phonics within the context of a whole word.

- Write out and point to the words “book,” “bubble,” “bat,” and “baby” as you say the words aloud.
- Emphasize the sound of the first letter, and point out to your child the first letter of each word is the same.
- Have your child think of words that start with a certain sound.



My Baby's First Phonics Words!

NAME

DATE AGE PHONICS WORDS

Comments:

5 Learning to Read a Book from Cover to Cover:

Even if your child can read hundreds of words and has learned phonics, reading a book from cover to cover is an important milestone.

- Start with books that have only a few words per page. It is a good idea to have books where many of the same words are repeated.
- Once your child is able to read simple books, encourage your child to gradually read more words in more difficult books during story time.
- Check out books from your local library that interest your child. Encourage your child to read on his own, and to read books to you.
- Continue reading to your child, even after your child is reading independently. Your child will treasure (and benefit from) the time you spend reading to him. Your child can learn new vocabulary words and how to pronounce them by listening to you read. Model good reading skills (for example, using inflection, pausing at appropriate times, etc.) for your child. Make sure you are patient when your child reads to you. It is an important achievement to read independently!

My Baby's First Book!

NAME

DATE

AGE

BOOK

Comments:

Additional Milestones and Comments

You might notice that your child has met additional developmental or emotional milestones that are important to you and your family. It is always great to have additional notes and information on your child's development for future reference.

My Baby's Additional Milestones

NAME

DATE

AGE

MILESTONE

Comments:

DATE

AGE

MILESTONE

Comments:

DATE

AGE

MILESTONE

Comments:



Read! *Your Baby Can Read!*

Viewing Schedule

Children of different ages often learn at different rates. Select and follow the recommended viewing schedule of the *Your Baby Can Read!* program for your child's age group. The months stated in the *Your Baby Can Read!* program are the months of DVD viewing, not your child's age, or the age necessary to begin a specific level.

Start with Volume 1 regardless of your child's age.

If this is your child's native language, follow the schedule for your child's age group below. If this is your child's second language, your child may progress through the schedule at a slower rate. Your child has the ability to learn multiple languages at the same time.

The basic schedule for children is as follows:

Age 3 months to 12 months old:

| MONTH |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

Age 12 months to 3 years old:

MONTH	MONTH	MONTH	MONTH	MONTH	MONTH
1	2	3	4	5	6

Age 3 years to 5 years old:

MONTH	MONTH	MONTH	MONTH	MONTH
1	2	3	4	5

In Month 1

Allow your child to watch the Volume 1 DVD twice a day. Move to Volume 2 after one month although it is likely that your baby will not recognize all of the words. Volume 2 repeats words from Volume 1 in a new context, and will help your child learn all of the words from the first volume.

- After your first few sessions watching the DVD, begin using the corresponding color-coded learning accessories. Play with the learning accessories for a few minutes at a time, several times a day.

In Months 2 & 3

Your child should be focused on watching the Volume 2 DVD about twice a day for two months.

- In addition, watch the Volume 1 DVD a few times each week to continue learning words from Volume 1.
- Play with the color-coded Volume 1 and 2 learning accessories for a few minutes, several times a day.

In Months 4 & 5

Your child is now watching the Volume 3 DVD. Follow this schedule for two months. Move on to the next DVD according to this schedule, even if your child does not know all of the words after two months. Your child will have more opportunities to master the words later.

- Allow your child to view the Volume 3 DVD about twice a day.

- Watch the Volume 1 and 2 DVDs a few times each week to refresh your child's memory of words she has recently learned.
- Play with the color-coded Volume 1, 2, and 3 learning accessories for a few minutes, several times a day.

In Month 6

Your child may now begin watching the **Volume 4 DVD**, which introduces three-word phrases, combining words your child has already seen in the previous DVDs with new words.

- Allow your child to watch the Volume 4 DVD about twice a day.
- Watch each of the previously-viewed DVDs a few times each week.
- Use the color-coded learning accessories for Volume 4, and continue using the learning accessories from the previous volumes to reinforce what your child has already learned.



In Month 7

Your child will now start watching the Volume 5 DVD. This DVD combines words from the previous DVDs with new words for a total of 164 key words to review and learn.

- Watch the Volume 5 DVD once or twice a day. This DVD is longer, so feel free to watch it in two or more sessions.
- Watch the Volume 4 DVD several times a week. Occasionally review the DVDs for Volumes 1, 2 and 3.
- Use the color-coded learning accessories for all volumes to reinforce everything your child has already learned.



At the end of Month 7

If your child is reading most of the words from all the DVDs, expose your child to many new words using the activities listed in the following chapter to help your child increase his vocabulary. If your child isn't fully recognizing all of the words yet, continue with the schedule for Month 7 for several more months, but randomly select any of the five DVDs rather than focusing on the Volume 4 and 5 DVDs. Continue showing your child the sliding cards and the books.

Make sure to go to the library and check out many new books while teaching your child to read. Check out fiction and nonfiction books covering many genres and topics. When you find books that have only a few words per page, point to each word while reading. Teach your child to point to the words while you are reading to your child. When you come across a familiar word, pause and allow your child an opportunity to read the word. Reading with your child often will help give her an appreciation of books and a love for learning.



Next



After completing this program, your child will be ready for the *Your Child Can Read!*[®] program. *Your Child Can Read!* teaches the fundamentals of phonics, in addition to introducing your child to over 800 words. Many “fast reading” segments are included in the program, because children that read quickly tend to have better comprehension skills than children who read at a slower pace. Our goal is to make learning to read enjoyable for children with DVDs that are engaging, entertaining and educational.