



# Parenting Tips

## INTRODUCING BOOKS TO TODDLERS

Introducing young children to books can be a delightful experience for parents and caregivers. A few simple suggestions may be useful in selecting from among the many books available.

1. Choose books about familiar objects, animals or themes in the child's everyday life.
2. Begin with books that have simple, clear illustrations of one or two objects on a page. In the beginning, pictures surrounded by blank space may be most appropriate.
3. Avoid books about cartoon or television characters. Books of this kind are often poorly written and artistically inferior.
4. Children begin to form ideas about gender roles at an early age. Examine books carefully to be sure the ideas about what males and females do are the ones you want your children to believe.
5. Include picture books about people from other cultures in your toddler collection. These books can provide an introduction to our increasingly diverse populations and communities.
6. Save folk and fairy tales for an age when children will enjoy them more because they have a better understanding of reality and how it differs from fantasy.
7. Sturdy cloth or board books may be necessary until children can enjoy books without destroying them. Protect books by putting them out of reach, except when they are looked at under supervision. This reinforces that books are special and valuable.

Books can be an expensive luxury for people of any age. Public libraries are a great family resource and librarians can help parents and teachers introduce toddlers to books. When books are carefully chosen and lovingly shared with toddlers by adults, who enjoy reading, a precious gift is created that will bring countless benefits to its tiny recipients

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County  
423 Griffing Avenue, Suite 100  
Riverhead, NY 11901  
Phone: (631) 727-7850 Fax: (631) 727-7130  
[www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk)

