

March 2012 4 months

Oral Language

Reading aloud to your baby is a fun, natural way to bond. Reading will help build your child's vocabulary, activate his imagination, and improve his communication skills. In fact, the more you talk to your child the better it is for his growth and development. Studies have shown that language skills — and even intelligence — are related to how many words an infant hears each day. In one study, babies whose parents spoke to them a lot (an average of 2,100 words an hour) scored higher on standard tests when they reached age three than did children whose parents hadn't been as verbal. Talking about what you see during your walk around the neighborhood and naming your child's body parts as you bathe him are good ways to chat. Reading is one more fun way to add variety to your verbal interactions.

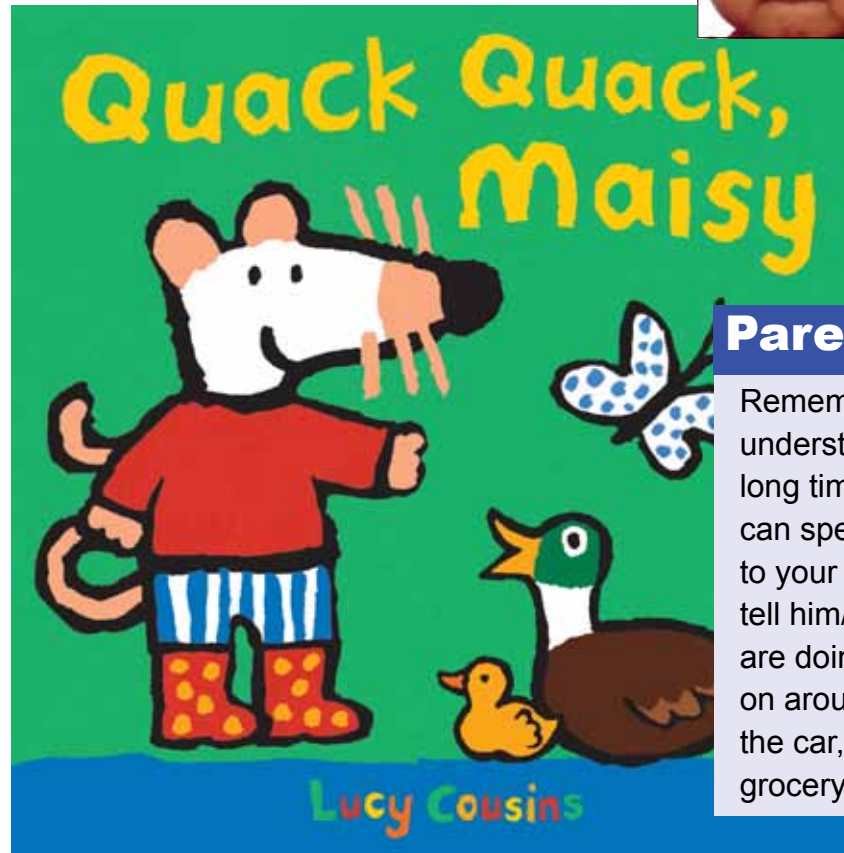
Other books to share with this age group

Global Babies by The Global Babies Fund

Babies World Board Book by DK Publishers

Who Are They? by Tana Hoban

Past 4-month Raising Readers books



Parent Tip

Remember, babies understand words a long time before they can speak them! Talk to your baby often and tell him/her what you are doing, what is going on around the house, the car, the park, the grocery store.

RAISING READERS THROUGH THE YEAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2012				April 2012		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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**Read
 Across
 America
 Day**

Thought and language, from which all later understanding comes, begin and intertwine during the earliest years.

—Vygotsky, 1962