

January 2012 newborn

Oral Language

From the moment of birth, an infant is surrounded by oral language. The development of language is one of the child's first steps toward becoming literate; it helps make reading and writing possible. Among the many things that researchers have observed is that very young children are active participants in their learning of language (Morrow, 2005). Literacy development early in life must focus on both learning and teaching. An environment rich in literacy materials and activities will encourage very young children to take an interest in books and reading, to associate these activities with pleasure, comfort, and ultimately steps forward to read by choice.

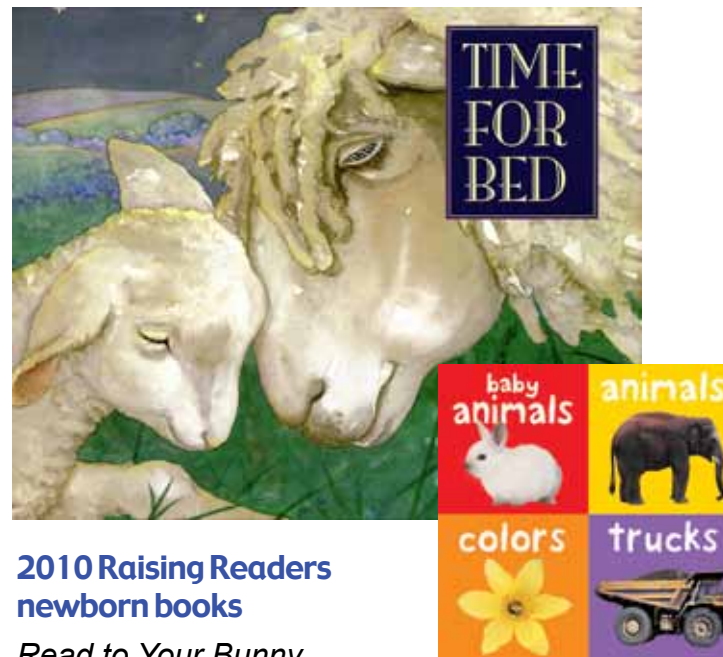
Other books to share with this age group

On the Night You Were Born by Nancy Tillman
White on Black by Tana Hoban
Let's Play by Leo Lionni



Parent Tip

Parents and family members can spontaneously read to their child. Reading to babies is a time to snuggle, holding your infant in a family member's arms.



2010 Raising Readers newborn books

Read to Your Bunny
A Red Train • *Baby Faces Stroller Book*

2011 Raising Readers newborn books

Baby Bear's Books • *Vroom Vroom, Maisy*
What Does Baby See?

RAISING READERS THROUGH THE YEAR



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Young children are more interested in the functions of literacy first and the form later. The first words a child says, reads, and writes are those with meaning and function in his or her life, such as family names, food labels, and road signs. After function, the child becomes interested in the forms of print, which includes names of letters and their sounds. Finally children learn conventions of print.

F. Smith, 1971