Early Talkers

Developing 6 by 6 early literacy skills for ages Birth – 2 years

6 by 6 Ready to Read
Six skills by six years

Kansas State Library
Early Talkers
Birth to two years

There are six skills children need to acquire before they can learn to read. While all of the skills are being developed throughout early childhood, specific age groups offer a unique opportunity to focus on a particular skill. Researchers from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Public Library Association partnered to explore what impact caregivers can have on a child’s literacy development. They divided early literacy development into these stages:

**Early talkers (birth-two)** Talkers (two & three) Pre-Readers (four & five)

Children from birth to two years are busy learning all about language by absorbing the different sounds they hear, and babbling and cooing in response. Board books are sturdy and easy for your baby to handle. In addition, there are many CDs with music for very young children.

Look for books with:
- realistic pictures
- bold, clear illustrations of things that are familiar to your baby
- simple story lines and concepts
- sound effects
- songs and rhymes including Mother Goose
- lift the flaps

Try board books by these authors:
Sandra Boynton Margaret Miller
Eric Carle Jan Ormerod
Tana Hoban Helen Oxenbury
Karen Katz Nancy Tafuri

*Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.*