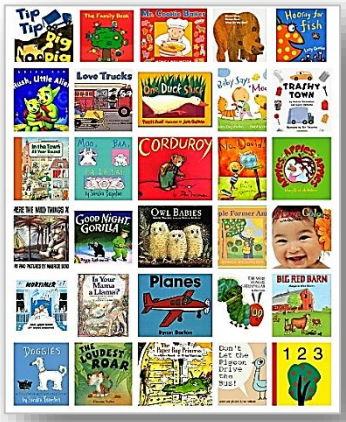
Literacy Minute: Reading Together

Before children can read on their own, they need to learn some skills. These include:



- **Knowing and understanding lots of words**
- **Understanding that words are made up of smaller sounds (the word "hat" is made up of three sounds: h + a + t)**
- **Understanding that marks on a page represent letters and words**
- **Knowing the letters of the alphabet**

You don't need fancy games, flashcards, or special instruction for a toddler to gain these skills. Just reading to your child as often as possible is the best way to help him or her learn to read independently. Set a goal of reading together every day.

Tips & Tricks:

- **Ask your child to tell you what they see on the page or make the sounds of any animals that are in the story.**
- **Use different voices for different characters.**
- **Go to the library each week and have your child pick two books to borrow. Read them together at home each day until next week's library picks.**
- **After reading a story with older children, close the book and have them imagine different endings for the story.**
- **Leave books somewhere that toddlers and preschoolers can get to them, like in a basket or on a low shelf.**
- **Don't worry about reading every word on every page, focus on what your child is interested in and have fun!**