

Talking Tips FOR PARENTS

In this November/December 2020 issue of the Learn To Talk Around The Clock Newsletter, we will be discussing reading aloud to children. Learn about the kind of books to read to your infants, and what you can expect from your child at different ages and stages.

- From birth to about four months of age, it really doesn't matter what books you read. **Reading exposes the child to the rhythmic sound of your voice** and a peaceful time of the day.
- If your child is deaf or hard of hearing, he may or may not be wearing a hearing aid yet. Of course, if he is, this would be a good time to put it on. If he doesn't have one yet, you should still read, holding him close and encircling him in your arms so he can feel the vibration of your voice and even watch your face.
- **Be animated, yet natural. You want this to be a time your baby learns to look forward to as enjoyable.**
- **Read to your baby when you can, away from the noise of the television, stereo, washing machine, and noisy children.** Create a space in his/her bedroom in a cozy chair with a basket full of books within reach, so you don't have to get up and look for a book to read after you sit down.
- I have been in many homes where the baby's cradle is next to the television. **Please find a quiet place for the baby.**
- After about four months of age, **choose books with a lot of interesting rhyme. Mother Goose Rhymes are wonderful for this.** Another source of repetitive rhyme would be Dr. Seuss books.
- As children get to be around one year old and up, **rhyme and changes in pitch and rhythm are wonderful.** A few word books are good, but you don't want to read these exclusively. After all we don't talk in single words! **You still want rhythm, rhyme, and full sentences so children continue to gain experience with our complete, full way of speaking.**

