



## Reading Checkup for Babies & Toddler

(Newborn to age 2)

How are your children developing as readers, and **what can you do to help?**

Use **Reading Checkups** to **evaluate** your children's progress through six stages of reading development, from **picture-pointing** to **independent reading**.

Each checkup describes the knowledge and skills that most children demonstrate at a given stage, and **suggests** how they can be nurtured.

### How to Use the Checkups?

Use the reading checkups the way a doctor uses a **growth chart**. Look for a steady pattern of growth with a few lulls and spurts. That's a **healthy sign** that your child is doing well in reading. Age or grade ranges are listed for each checkup, but just as a **guide**.

As you mark your child's progress, don't forget to check up on **what you can be doing to actively promote your child's interest and skills**.

### Checkup for Babies and Toddlers:

It's never too soon to begin reading to your child.

**Babies** enjoy hearing a **parent's voice**, even if they can't understand the words. They **soak up** the language and attention.

**Toddlers** can **listen longer** and **follow** a simple story. They focus on the pictures, but they are learning some of the basics about reading, such as how to hold a book and turn the pages. They are also **learning to love it**.

### Does your baby...

- Respond happily to reading by waving hands or batting the pages?
  - a. not yet      b. sometimes      c. often
- Treat books differently than other playthings?
  - a. not yet      b. sometimes      c. often
- Join in when you read rhymes, sounds, or lines that repeat?
  - a. not yet      b. sometimes      c. often
- Want to read the same book again and again?
  - a. not yet      b. sometimes      c. often

### Can your toddler...

- Hold a book right-side up and turn the pages one at a time?
  - a. not yet      b. sometimes      c. often
- Point to something in picture and say its name?
  - a. not yet      b. sometimes      c. often
- Retell something that happened during the day?
  - a. not yet      b. some words      c. often
- Hold a crayon in a fist and scribble?
  - a. not yet      b. without control      c. with control



## Don't Worry:

### What Do the Checkups Mean?

Notice where most of your checkmarks fall.

If your answers are mostly **As**, your child may still be making the transition from an earlier stage. If the answers are mostly **Bs**, your child is in the middle of this stage. If you checked mostly **Cs**, your child is probably stepping up to the next level.

It's **alright** if your little ones...

### 1 Treat books like toys.

Babies normally teethe on books or handle them roughly at first.

### 2 Quickly loses interest...

or is easily distracted when you read. Just skip to your baby's favorites page.

### 3 Wants to read same story over & over again.

Baby & toddler learn through repetition. Do create fun moment for baby.