

A child's interests are

# Windows of Opportunity

to fun and enjoyable learning

Looking at **books** and  
listening to stories  
are powerful  
learning activities  
for many young children



## Places to learn and activities to enjoy **AT HOME**

### Living room or family room

- Place colorful children's picture books on a low shelf near your books and magazines so that appealing reading material is always within reach.
- Let your child see you enjoying reading. Encourage him to look at books on his own while you read. You're a terrific role model!
- Consider setting aside a "Family Reading Time" each evening during which everyone—even the youngest—spends quiet time with books.

### Changing table

- Recite refrains or rhymes from favorite stories as you change her clothes. "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!" "Chicka, chicka, boom-boom, will there be enough room?"

### Bathroom

- Store favorite washable books in a plastic box near your child's potty seat. They can help him "stay seated" and pass the time during potty training!
- Waterproof infant books can even make good bathtub toys ... just be **sure** they're waterproof!

### Story time

- Watch to see what times of day your child most enjoys listening to stories or looking at books. Some ideal times: before naps, before bedtime at night, during a mid-morning break, as a change-of-pace activity when she's restless or bored, etc. Let reading books become part of the rhythm of everyday activities.
- Make some simple booklets with photos of your child engaged in everyday activities or with magazine cutouts of children, animals, and familiar objects. Make up short stories to tell about the pictures.
- Let your child listen to recordings of children's songs and stories with lots of repetition and rhyming.

### In the kitchen

- Show him that books and reading are important in the kitchen. For example, read aloud the steps in a recipe as you work and talk about what the words mean and how to do what they describe.
- Let her enjoy looking through your illustrated cookbooks, finding pictures of favorite foods.

**More fun with books AWAY FROM HOME** ➔

# Places to learn and activities to enjoy **AWAY FROM HOME**

## Public library

- Visit the children's department of your public library regularly with your young child. Help him take part in finding and checking out storybooks that interest him.
- Don't worry if she chooses the same book again and again. Children often love listening to the same stories many times.
- Attend preschool story times at the library. You'll enjoy the lively stories and activities.
- Many libraries have play areas with stuffed animals, puzzles, toys, and comfy furniture. You might be able to check out toys, music recordings, or book-tape sets you can use at the library or at home.



## Out and about in the car or public transport

- Tuck a few small children's storybooks in your diaper bag or purse so you can take advantage of any "down-time" moments in stalled traffic to share a good story.
- Point out and talk about the signs that are helping you find your way—street name signs, traffic signals, business name signs, etc.
- Keep a basket of books near his car seat to make travel more fun.

## Out to eat in a restaurant

- Bring along picture books that are reserved for this special occasion.
- Together look at and talk about the restaurant menu or table cards with pictures of food.

## Flea market or yard sale

- Keep an eye out for children's books, colorful magazines, and other reading material at bargain prices. Thrift shopping is a fun way to gather a good variety of books your child can have at hand to enjoy whenever she likes.

## Visiting friends and family

- Bring along well-loved books from home. Invite other young children in the house to look at the books or listen to stories together with your child.
- Keep a small stack of books at Grandpa's house that she can look forward to reading there.
- Let him experience the fun of listening to stories with young cousins and friends.

It's very  
clear...  
books  
are fun!



## Supermarket

- Colorful advertising inserts, handouts, free brochures, and magazines often found at store entrances can absorb your little book lover's attention.
- You might be surprised by how often words and pictures will catch your child's attention in a store. He may enjoy looking at the pictures of babies on cereal boxes, diaper packages, and other products.

