

YCC READING TIPS



Supporting your child

- 1. Keep Reading Moments Short and Warm:** Toddlers learn best through brief, repeated experiences. A few minutes of reading several times a day is more valuable than one long session. Follow your child's cues—interest comes and goes quickly at this age.
- 2. Let Your Child Lead:** In Montessori, even the youngest children are active participants, not passive listeners. Allow them to turn pages, point to objects, label items, choose the same book over and again.
- 3. Connect Reading to Daily Life:** Name objects in the book that your child sees at home or in nature. Connection builds meaning, which is the foundation for future literacy.
- 4. Keep it Positive:** If your child wanders away or loses interest, that's normal at this age. Continue reading aloud gently or put the book aside without pressure. The goal is joyful exposure, not completion.

Create a Special Reading Space



Encourage reading by creating a soft, simple, and accessible space with a small basket of board books that your child can reach independently. A pillow, rug, or small chair might also make the space more inviting.

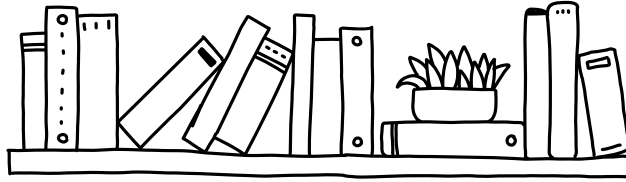
Limit the number of books available to 6-8 and rotate them to maintain interest.

Keep books orderly and teach your child to return them to the basket, turn pages gently, and treat books with respect.



How to Find Good Books

- **Visit the Library:** Take a trip to the local library for lots of great selections and to rotate your offering at home.
- **Choose books with:**
 - real photographs
 - about everyday life
 - repetition and predictable text
 - wordless or almost wordless pages to encourage conversation, observation and storytelling
- **Follow your child's interests!** If they are fascinated by dogs, trucks, babies, or birds...lean into that. Interest is the engine of attention.



SUGGESTED YCC READING

Don't know where to start? Here are some ideas.

Books with Real Photographs (Montessori-Recommended)

- Global Babies, The Global Fund for Children: real photos of infants around the world; warm, inclusive
- Baby Faces, Margaret Miller: expressive real photographs supporting language and emotional literacy
- Everywhere Babies, Susan Meyers: gentle rhymes and real-world routines
- My First Body Book, DK Publishing: clear images for naming body parts
- I Spy Little Books, Jean Marzollo: encourages visual discrimination and vocabulary

Nature and Seasonal Books

- In the Tall, Tall Grass, Denise Fleming: rhythmic language with nature themes
- Good Night, Gorilla, Peggy Rathmann: minimal words, strong visual storytelling
- The Very Busy Spider, Eric Carle: simple sequencing and animal vocabulary
- Over in the Meadow, Ezra Jack Keats: counting and animals with lyrical cadence
- Listen, Listen, Phillis Gershator: introduces seasonal sounds and sensory language

Simple, Realistic Stories

- Owen, Kevin Henkes: comforting themes around attachment objects
- Spot Series (board books), Eric Hill: predictable structure, gentle exploration
- Maisy Series, Lucy Cousins: everyday routines in simple, bright illustrations
- A Good Day, Kevin Henkes: simple cause/effect and emotional shifts
- Baby Walk, Anne Rockwell: realistic toddler experiences

Rhythmic, Repetitive, and Predictable Books

- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle: rhythmic repetition
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (Board Book), Bill Martin Jr.: alphabet rhythm
- Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site (Board Book), Sherri Duskey Rinker: soothing rhythm
- Where Is the Green Sheep?, Mem Fox: simple repetition with gentle humor
- Time for Bed, Mem Fox: calm cadence for bedtime routines

Concept Books

- Eating the Alphabet, Lois Ehlert: fruits/vegetables with rich vocabulary
- Counting Kisses, Karen Katz: counting and body-awareness vocabulary
- My First 100 Words, Roger Priddy: clear labeling (use sparingly; focus on real-life matching)
- This Is My Body Board Book, Holly Brook-Piper: naming and self-awareness

Wordless & Almost-Wordless Books

- Good Night, Gorilla, Peggy Rathmann: rich visual humor
- Flotsam (Board Book adaptation), David Wiesner: exploration and imagination
- Hug, Jez Alborough: emotional expression through minimal text

Milestone Books

- Even Firefighters Go to the Potty, Wendy and Naomi Wax
- Where do you Poop, Agnes Barese
- Toddler Prep™ Book Series, e.g. I am a Big Brother, Caroline Jayne Church