

# 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.

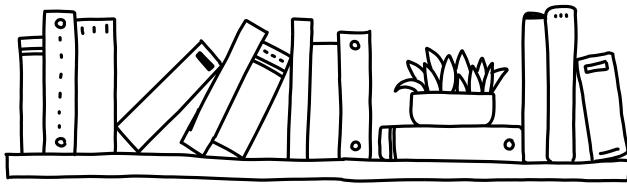
Limit the number of books available to 6-8 and rotate them to maintain interest.

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 Barrese
- Toddler Prep™ Book Series, e.g. I am a Big Brother, Caroline Jayne Church