



Let's Go to the Library!

Your public library is the place to find books, magazines, DVDs, and CDs that you can borrow and share with your child. Find other great things at your library, including:

- **Reading experts!** Your librarian can help you find books and other materials that are appropriate for your child, including books in your home language. Ask for recommendations and advice.
- **Special programs for babies and toddlers and their caregivers**, including activities for parents and children, lead by a librarian and designed for different developmental stages. For babies and toddlers, libraries may offer read-aloud story time, storytelling, finger plays, singing, dancing, and circle games.
- **Comfortable chairs, fun child-sized furniture, interesting artwork, toys, and other child-friendly stuff** that create a comforting and welcoming environment.
- **Other families with young children**, and friendly staff who can help you get to know each other.
- **Opportunities to sample new technologies** with your older toddlers, such as computers and tablets.
- **Free passes to museums** and other places to take your baby or toddler.
- **Books and other media resources that can help answer your questions** about your child's growth and development, provide ideas for dealing with behavior and learning issues, and more.

Check out the library's website for details on all the library's services. The website is also a good place to look for book recommendations, parenting tips, and links to local family-friendly activities.

When You Visit the Library

- Get a library card! It's free and you can use it to check out books for yourself and your child or to register for programs. Checking out books with a card can be a special experience for your toddler. Toddlers also often enjoy placing books in the return book slot or box.
- Take full advantage of all the great and free resources of your library and visit regularly. You might plan weekly trips to attend story time sessions or visit twice a month to check out new books. Keep your library books in a special place, read them often, and talk about plans for your return visit. Your regular visits let your child know that you value books and reading.
- Talk to your librarians and get to know them. Your librarian can help you find books, tell you about library programs, and help make your child feel welcome.
- A visit to the library is like any other outing with your child—you need to be prepared for anything! Try to pick a time of day when your child is rested. Talk to your child about where you are going and what's going to happen: *We're going to the library, where there are lots and lots of books! Or: We are going to story time at the library, and some of our friends will be there, too.*
- Most librarians are quite understanding about noise in the children's room, and encourage play and conversation. However, before you go, you may want to help your toddler practice his quieter "indoor voice" and talk about how to handle books that are borrowed.
- You don't have to limit your visit to the children's section. Show your child the rest of the library and let her see you looking for books, magazines, and newspapers that you want to read.
- After your visit, reminisce with your child about all of the fun things you did. Help him help you to retell the story.