

AS BABIES GET OLDER ...

- Encourage toddlers to describe and explain things to you, especially how they are feeling and what they need.
- Surround your toddlers with print by making signs and naming their belongings. Encourage them to draw and make marks on paper as well, because this is the first stage of learning how to write.
- Ask toddlers about their drawings and scribbles and write down their replies underneath their pictures. This allows them to see how adults write and you can read their messages back to them.
- Display an alphabet chart or use magnetic letters to chant the alphabet with your pre-schoolers, touching each letter as you go to help them learn about the different letters we use when we write.
- Use non-fiction books with pre-schoolers to do things like cooking, making models and finding out about things so they read books for many purposes.



How to make a Pop-Up Card.

- Find age-appropriate Web Sites and work on these with your children - downloading any texts they are interested in. This will teach them how to scroll and read from the screen.

AND...

- Involve pre-schoolers in the use of the computer to record messages, make signs and to send emails to family and friends. Encourage others to send return messages so you can read them with your children.
- Track the text in a book when you're reading to pre-schoolers by running your finger along under the words. This will draw their attention to how the words are organised on the page and the spaces we leave between words when we write.
- Encourage them to read books with you and by themselves so they can practice what they are learning about reading eg. how to hold a book, to interpret the pictures, to make up an appropriate story and eventually to recognise some words.

There will be many more things you will do with, and for your children and by the time they go to school you will be truly rewarded by their ...

- high levels of self esteem
- independence and confidence
- ability to communicate and concentrate
- creativity and inquisitive natures
- familiarity with some of the conventions of written language and mathematics
- love of books and reading and most of all their love for you.

Enjoy it all and Good Luck!

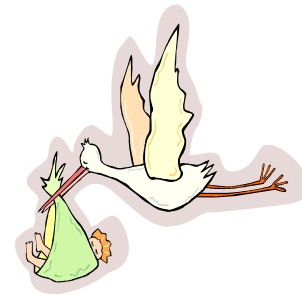
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ROTARY CLUB OF DAYLESFORD

This pamphlet has been prepared for the family and friends of the newborn baby to highlight the important role they play in the development of a healthy and happy child.

GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

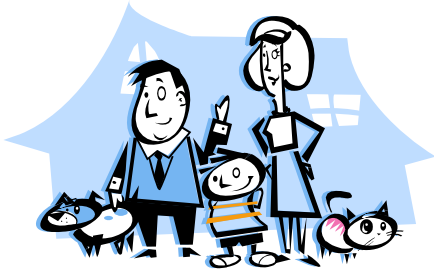


**Congratulations
on the birth of your baby!**

Dear Family,

From birth, all babies begin a new way of growing and learning and this can only be successfully achieved with lots of love, attention and care from you.

WHAT DO NEWBORN BABIES NEED?



All babies are unique beings who need and yearn for your understanding, support and guidance because you are their first teachers. At the start you will do everything for them but as your babies grow older they will begin to copy you. When you see this you can encourage them to try doing things for themselves.

They also need ...

- parents who are patient and positive
- good role models
- to be treated and valued as individuals
- to be cared for in a safe home
- good nourishment, fresh air and comfortable living conditions
- to be involved in enjoyable experiences that stimulate their brains
- the freedom to experiment and explore things under supervision
- to be congratulated when they try new things and praised for their achievements, no matter how small.

Most importantly, babies need time to grow as individuals and to learn at their own pace.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR BABIES GROW AND LEARN?

There are many, many things you can do to help your babies grow and learn during the first five important years.

Try some of these strategies -

- From birth stimulate your babies with gentle noises, music, moving objects, patting, cuddling and rocking.
- Tell them that you love them everyday and show them you enjoy their company.
- Talk and chat to them so they can learn the names of things and then talk back to you.
- Show and explain things to them and answer their many questions to stimulate their brains and encourage thinking.
- Take babies to ordinary places in the community and beyond, and talk about what can be seen and done at these places to help them learn about where and how we live.
- Introduce them to people of all ages, including their own so they can learn how to mix and develop relationships with others.



- Play active and quiet games with them to exercise their bodies, develop physical and thinking skills and to encourage turn taking and sharing.

YOU CAN ALSO ...

- Sing, dance, muck about and have fun with babies so they learn to laugh and enjoy themselves and ultimately develop a sense of humor.



When I was one I was just begun ...

- Say and chant Nursery and Counting Rhymes to and with them, to develop a sense of the rhythms of our language and an awareness of how we put words together to make sentences.
- Tell and read stories - some of them over and over again to stimulate the imagination and to ensure babies become familiar with the language of “story” and “books”.
- Start a home library and take your toddlers to the local library to hear stories and borrow books. This will encourage a love of books and reading.
- Count objects, identify shapes and draw their attention to numbers and how we use them to create an interest in mathematics
- Involve toddlers in “making and doing” activities to encourage creativity, develop hand-eye coordination and to strengthen their finger and hand muscles.

