



Turning Pages

Child's Developmental Goals

- ✓ To practice producing babbling sounds
- ✓ To "read" a book by independently turning the pages

MATERIALS:

- ☐ 2 or 3 books

PREPARATION:

- ♥ Prop the books upright and slightly open on the floor to gain the infant's attention.

NURTURING STRATEGIES:

1. When the infant crawls near the books, move closer to the child.
2. Observe what the infant does with the book. Note, for example, how he turns the pages or how he verbally labels the pictures. While turning the pages and looking at the pictures, the infant may point and babble.
3. Providing positive reinforcement may encourage repetition of the desired behavior. Reinforce the behaviors that you want to see continued. Say, for example:
"Isaiah, you are turning the pages by yourself."
4. If a desired behavior was not observed, encouraging the infant may result in the behavior being performed. Suggest, for example:
"Isaiah, point to the bunny. Talk to the bunny."

5. If the infant attempts or accomplishes the encouraged behavior, provide positive reinforcement by saying, for example:
"Isaiah, you pointed to the bunny."
"You are talking to the bunny."



Highlighting Development

According to recent research, the most important year for brain development is the first (Shore, 1997). The results of these studies have major implications for understanding the needs of young children. Talking, singing, cuddling while reading a book, and rocking are all important experiences for infants and toddlers.

VARIATION:

- ♥ Read the book together. Point to the pictures and verbally label the objects. The infant can also participate by turning the pages and babbling.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- ♥ Some books are designed especially for infants such as those in which the next page raises slightly when the top page is turned. This allows the infants to easily grasp and turn the page using their thumb and forefinger, which is called a pincer grasp.
- ♥ To prevent them from tuning out, infants also need periods of quiet. These times will encourage the infant to look at things and to practice making sounds with their own voices (Abrams & Kaufman 1990).