

# Reading Pictures and Books

*Banana. Yum!*



Notice what your baby is looking at in a book and name that picture.

When you name the picture at the moment he is showing interest in it, he will begin to understand more of your words.



## Why this is important

Seeing the pictures and hearing the names of objects on the page help your baby to connect pictures and words. When you place an object next to its picture, you deepen your child's understanding that pictures represent real things. A positive introduction to pictures and books is an important step in your child's literacy development.

## What you do

- Collect cards or board books with one simple picture on each page.
- Show a card or picture book to your child and name the object on the page at the moment he looks at it.
- Tell him in simple words about its color, shape, or use: *This is a shoe. A red shoe. You wear it on your foot.*
- Give him the picture to hold and explore, and continue to talk to him about the picture.

## Another idea

Pair a picture with an object the baby is familiar with. For example, if you have a picture of a cat, invite him to hold his toy cat as you show him the picture. Talk to him about the object in the picture and the object in your hand: *That's a cat. The cat is furry. You have a toy cat. Acknowledge his attempts to talk about the picture. I hear you talking about that cat.*

### Let's read together!

*Good Morning, Sun*  
by Lisa Campbell Ernst