



Wayland Welcoming Schools Building Blocks to Reading

The ability to learn how to read and write begins at birth. Children depend on their parents and other adults to teach them these skills. Below are the “blocks” of knowledge and skills that parents need to teach children before they reach kindergarten.

From 6 to 12 months, a baby should:

- Reach for books
- Look at pictures in books
- Make happy sounds
- Pat the book
- Sit in a lap and be read to every day
- Try to turn the pages of books

From 12 to 18 months, a toddler should:

- Sit and hold a book by himself
- Bring books to adults to read
- Turn board book pages over and over
- Point to and name pictures
- Make animal sounds or say words
- Hold a book right side up
- Enjoy books
- Listen to stories even if not sitting down

From 18 to 24 months, a toddler should:

- Name pictures in books
- Recite some words in her favorite book
- Read to her stuffed toys or dolls
- Enjoy books
- Listen to stories even if not sitting down
- Sing simple songs

From 24 to 36 months, toddlers should:

- Turn paper pages
- Find favorite pictures in books
- Tell parts of stories from memory
- Knows that the book print is made up of words
- “read” favorite books to himself
- Draw circles and squiggles for words

From 36 to 48 months, preschoolers should:

- Listen to longer stories
- Know some familiar words like “cat”
- Know the sounds of a few letters
- Try to write their own names
- Ask lots of questions as we read books
- Recite songs, nursery rhymes

From 48 to 60 months, preschoolers should:

- Listen to entire stories
- Know letters and sound they make
- Write their first names
- Write some words like Mom or Dad
- Recite songs, nursery rhymes
- Know words that rhyme like cat-bat