

# LET'S READ AT 2 YEARS!

**This is what it looks  
like when we read:**

**I learn from books  
when you:**

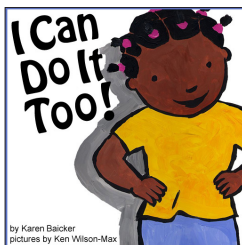
**Let's read these  
books together, too!**

**You can check out these  
and other great books in  
the Monroe County Public  
Library's Children's area!**

- I might start having my own story times with stuffed animals or other toys.
- I will search through familiar books for my very favorite pictures.
- I can hold a book up and turn the pages on my own. I learned it from watching you!

- Let me pick the book we'll read today.
- Ask me to tell you about the story. I have some funny ideas!
- Read me the same stories often. Being familiar with the story helps me understand how words work.

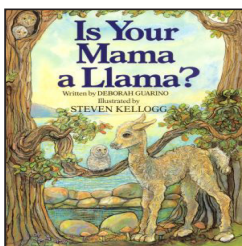
Books teach me about the relationships and roles in my family. I see myself in the characters we are reading about!



## **I Can Do It Too!**

by Karen Baiker

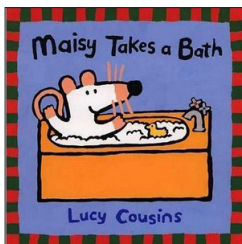
A little girl displays confidence as she helps a younger family member.



## **Is Your Mama a Llama?**

by Deborah Guarino

Rhyming text in which a young llama asks his friends if their mamas are llamas.



## **Maisy Takes a Bath**

by Lucy Cousins

When Tallulah comes to visit at bathtime she decides to join Maisy in the bath to play.

# your child @<sup>™</sup>

## 18 to 24 months

highlights of what's  
happening at this stage of  
your child's development ...

Your child is becoming his own person. Watch him as he starts to walk, run, and climb with ease.



### Your child's health

#### The Well Visit

Your child will get vaccinations at 18 months and will have a well visit again at 24 months.

Let your doctor know if your baby:

- Cannot walk on his own.
- Walks only on his toes.
- Does not speak at least 15 words.
- Does not know how to use common objects like a brush, telephone, fork, or spoon.

#### Nutrition

By 18 months, your child should:

- Eat most foods cut up into small pieces.
- Be drinking from a cup rather than a bottle.

#### Sleep

Your child should sleep about 14 hours a day. She may now take only one nap a day, usually from about 1 to 3 pm. She should go to bed between 6 and 8 pm.

### Nurturing your child

#### Behavior

Your child is starting to understand rules and consequences. So, it is time to teach your child the right way to behave.

- Praise good behavior. If you point out the good things your child does, he will want to do more of them.
- Ignore small things.
- Never spank. If you are angry, count to 10 before reacting.
- Limit your use of the word "no."
- Be consistent with your rules.

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the generous support of the  
**A.L. Mailman Family Foundation.**

# your child @<sup>™</sup>

## 18 to 24 months

### Nurturing your child, continued

- Attachment** Your child is excited about being independent. But he will not go too far from you. To help your child move away from you:
- Say goodbye when you leave. If you do not say goodbye, he will fear that you may slip out at any time.
  - Make sure your child is busy with an activity when you are about to leave.

- Language** Help your toddler learn. Talk and read with her throughout the day.
- Add to what your child says. If she says “kitty,” you can say, “Yes, the kitty is little and soft.”
  - Ask questions about “where,” “what” and “when.” It doesn’t matter if your child can’t speak yet.
  - Sing lots of songs and rhymes, such as *Rock-a-Bye Baby*, at bedtime.
  - Help your child scribble, draw, or pretend to write.



- Play** Your child now likes pretend play and doing things for himself. You can help him play along.
- Practice naming objects. Place three familiar objects in front of your child and say, “Please give me the ...”
  - Set up play dates. It is time to learn to play with other children. But do not expect your child to share well.

### Your child’s safety

- Around the House** Always put your child’s safety first.
- Block off dangerous rooms and objects. Put gates on stairs. Put latches on cabinets, toilets, and drawers. Cover sharp edges.
  - Keep hot liquids out of reach.
  - Call poison control right away if you think your child has swallowed poison: 1-800-222-1222.

- In the Car** All infants and toddlers should ride in a Rear-Facing Car Seat until they are at least 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat’s manufacturer. Any child who has outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for his convertible car seat should use a Forward-Facing Car Seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.



# TIPS | for parents of Toddlers

Being a toddler is all about ACTION. Encourage continued language development and interest in books and reading by keeping things lively and engaging. Everyday experiences are full of opportunities to engage in conversation and develop language skills. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

## ■ Don't expect your toddler to sit still for a book

Toddlers need to MOVE, so don't worry if they act out stories or just skip, romp, or tumble as you read to them. They may be moving, but they are listening.

## ■ Recite rhymes, sing songs, and make mistakes!

Pause to let your toddler finish a phrase or chant a refrain. Once your toddler is familiar with the rhyme or pattern, make mistakes on purpose and get caught.

## ■ Choose engaging books

Books featuring animals or machines invite movement and making sounds. Books with flaps or different textures to touch keep hands busy. Books with detailed illustrations or recurring items hidden in the pictures are great for exploring and discussing.

## ■ Keep reading short, simple, and often

Toddlers frequently have shorter attention spans than babies. Look for text that is short and simple. Read a little bit, several times a day.

## ■ Encourage play that involves naming, describing, and communicating

Set up a zoo with all the stuffed animals. Stage a race with the toy cars. Put your toddler in charge and ask lots of questions.

## ■ Every day is an adventure when you're a toddler

Choose books about everyday experiences and feelings. Your child will identify with the characters as they dress, eat, visit, nap, and play.

## ■ Ask questions

Take time to listen to your toddler's answers. Toddlers have strong opinions and interesting ideas about the world. Encourage your toddler to tell you what he or she thinks. You'll build language skills and learn what makes your toddler tick at the same time.

## ■ Play to their favorites

Read favorite stories again and again. Seek out books about things your toddler especially likes—trains, animals, the moon. These books may extend a toddler's attention span and build enthusiasm for reading.

## ■ Not having fun?

Try a different story or a different time during the day. Reading with a very young child is primarily about building positive experiences with books, not finishing every book you start.

Visit [www.ReadingRockets.org](http://www.ReadingRockets.org) for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future through reading.