



child development council

Offices in Cortland and Tompkins Counties

607-753-0106 or 607-273-0259

ChildDevelopmentCouncil.org

April - May - June 2015

Parenting Playground

Tips for Reading to your Toddler

Being a toddler is all about **ACTION**. 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.
- ◆ **Everyday** 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 for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future through reading.



Birth to Three A to Z



May 20, 2015 3 to 7 pm @ The Space

Free and Open to Families and Caregivers of children birth to three years

Join the Early Childhood Collaboration for free information and resources on the development of children ages birth to three. This event will help parents and caregivers celebrate milestones in their child's development, provide information about what comes next as your child grows and develops, and provide an opportunity for families to meet and talk with early childhood professionals about resources in Tompkins County.

Families and caregivers who come to the event will also benefit from ideas they can incorporate in everyday activities that will boost children's learning, and build important networks that help future learning.

This event was organized by the Child Development Council, Family Reading Partnership, Franziska Racker Centers, Tompkins Community Action and the Tompkins County Health Department on behalf of the Early Childhood Collaboration.

Peaceful Parenting Conference

The 1st Annual Peaceful Parenting Conference:

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Hangar Theatre, Ithaca, NY

The day-long conference will feature Dr. Laura Markham, author of [Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids: How to Stop Yelling and Start Connecting](#). There will also be a workshop by Belinda Hodren on Gentle Sleep Coaching. For an additional fee (\$30 per couple) you can attend a workshop on Holistic Baby Acupressure System presented by Jennifer Taveras, Licensed Acupuncturist.

For questions such as 'can I bring my children?', 'what about lunch?', 'can I buy a ticket for the workshop only?', 'are there scholarships?' email Catherine at PeacefulParentingConference@gmail.com. Several local businesses are sponsoring the conference.

Parents Apart

Parents Apart is a workshop for parents who want to learn how to help their child(ren) adjust during separation and divorce. Pre-registration is required. Call Program Coordinator Jennifer Gray at Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins (272-2292 X 243) or email her at jcg33@cornell.edu to register.

This is a 6 hour workshop that is held monthly. It alternates between two Monday evenings from 6-9 pm and one Saturday from 9am – 4 pm with a 1 hour break. Dates of workshops in the next 6 months are:

April 18, May 4 & 11, July 13, July 6 & 13, August 15, September 14 & 21.

Questions? <http://cctompkins.org/ParentsApart/index.htm>. or contact Jennifer Gray (see above).

Babies Belong at the Library and Baby's First Library Card – Beginning April 12, 2015!

Sponsored by Family Reading Partnership and 6 public libraries in Tompkins County, a new initiative starts April 12. **Baby's First Library Card** will be distributed to new babies and their families, coinciding with *National Library Week* and *Week of the Young Child*. The library card is part of the project to encourage early and ongoing library use, called **Babies Belong at the Library!**

Families of babies born before April 12, 2015, babies born at home, or families adopting babies are invited to pick up their baby's library card, along with their special gift to the new baby, at their local library. Partner libraries are: Southworth in Dryden, Groton, Lansing, Newfield, Trumansburg and Ithaca.

In special recognition of welcoming babies and supporting their families, all six public libraries have adopted a policy that there will be no late fines on board books. Families are encouraged to contact their local library to find out about opportunities for story times and play times for families with babies.

