Why Read to Babies?

**Picture Recognition:** Even very young babies are able to focus and pay attention to pictures in books. Reading leads to understanding language.

**Ready for school:** Babies who are read to from the beginning of life are better prepared for school. A child’s ability to absorb language peaks at age 8 months, remains very high until 3 years, and sharply declines at age 8 years.

**Speech development:** Babies take in the information and start learning about speech patterns. Brain synapses connect between your baby’s neurons when you read out loud.

**Repetition:** Helps build memory, vocabulary, connecting and recital.

**Stimulation:** Hearing your voice engages your baby’s interest in sounds and listening skills and keeps your baby’s senses connected to you (voice, tone, physical touch, calm activity).

**Narrative Understanding:** Helps your baby string meaningful ideas together and enhances imagination.

**Communication:** Print, word grouping, left to right, spoken words, and gestures are how we communicate. Use character voices.

**Socio-emotional development:** Reading creates a nurturing environment where trust, safety, problem-solving, and self confidence are developed. Books also connect your baby to other cultures.

**Motor development:** Turning pages in any form, tracing words and shapes/symbols, feeling textures, chewing, coordination, focus on pages and pictures support development of fine and gross motor skills.