



Let's Go to the Library

Your public library is the place to find books, magazines, DVDs, and CDs that you can borrow and share with your child. You can also find lots of other great things at your library, including:

- **Reading experts.** Your librarian can help you find books and other materials that are appropriate for your child, including books in your home language. Ask your librarians for advice and recommendations—they are happy to help!
- **Special programs for children and their caregivers.** Many libraries host family movie nights, playgroups, parenting workshops, read-aloud story time, storytelling, finger plays, singing, dancing, and circle games.
- **Comfortable chairs, fun child-sized furniture, interesting artwork, toys,** and other child-friendly stuff that create a comforting and welcoming environment.
- **Other families with young children,** and friendly staff who can help you get to know each other.
- **Opportunities to sample new technologies** with your child such as touch-screen computers and tablets or assistive technology for children with visual, hearing, or other impairments.
- **Free passes to museums** and other places to take your preschooler.
- **Books and other media resources** that can help answer your questions about your child's growth and development, provide ideas for dealing with behavior and learning issues, and more.

Check out your local library's website for details on all the library's services. The website is also a good place to look for book recommendations, parenting tips, and links to local family-friendly activities.

When You Visit the Library

- Get a library card! It's free and you can use it to check out books for yourself and your child or to register for programs.
- Many libraries will issue a library card to a child as young as five-years old. Ask at the desk, your child may be old enough for her very own library card. Checking out books with a card can be a special experience for your child.
- Take full advantage of all the great and free resources of your library and visit regularly. You might plan weekly trips to attend story time sessions or visit twice a month to check

out new books. Keep your library books in a special place, read them often, and talk about plans for your return visit. Your regular visits let your child know that you value books and reading.

- Before each trip to the library, ask your child what kinds of books he wants to look for and bring home. Together make a list of things he is curious to learn more about. Hunt for these books together.
- Talk to your librarians and get to know them. Your librarian can help you find books, tell you about library programs, and help make your child feel welcome.
- You don't have to limit your visit to the children's section. Show your child the rest of the library and let her see you looking for books, magazines, and newspapers that you want to read.
- A visit to the library is like any other outing with your child—you need to be prepared for anything! Try to pick a time of day when your child is rested. Talk to your child about where you are going and what's going to happen: *We're going to the library, where there are lots and lots of books!* Or: *We are going to story time at the library, and some of our friends will be there, too.*
- Most librarians are very understanding about noise in the children's room, and encourage play and conversation. However, before you go, you may want to help your child practice his quieter "indoor voice" and talk about how to handle books that are borrowed.
- After your visit, reminisce with your child about all of the fun things you did. Ask questions like, *What was your favorite part of our visit to the library? What books are you excited to check out next time?* Be sure to tell your child your favorite part of the visit and what books you are excited about!