

# Language Express Media Release



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## Language is the Foundation of all Literacy and Learning

Children need to be read to. ***"The best time to start reading aloud to a baby is the day it is born."*** (- Mem Fox, *Reading Magic*, p.31) Your baby's brain is like a sponge waiting to absorb information. Your baby can benefit from reading with you every day. It is never too early to start your child's language and literacy foundation! Strong language skills are essential to a child's success in learning to read.

**Very young babies cannot focus their eyes well. Look for books with large, simple pictures. (Bold red, green, blue and black are usually best.)**

### HERE ARE THE BENEFITS OF READING WITH YOUR BABY:

- **Promotes listening skills** – allows your child to understand more and to learn new vocabulary.
- **Develops attention span and memory** – babies can understand a lot more than you think; their brains are searching and scanning everything they come in contact with in order to get information and meaning.
- **Develops eye muscles** – babies develop their eye muscles by looking at pictures. They see best from a distance of about 1 foot.
- **Promotes bonding and calmness for both baby and parent** – it is a fun and easy thing to do with your baby daily. It helps you bond and connect with your child. It promotes family togetherness.
- **Creates a love of books and learning** – it helps babies learn new words.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO WHILE YOU ARE READING TO YOUR BABY:

- Point to the pictures and say the names (to help your baby focus on specific sounds).
- Use different voices for different characters – be entertaining.
- Spend time talking about the pictures before turning the page.
- Just read, so that the baby can enjoy the sound of your voice and hear the rhythms of different types of language.

*(taken from United Counties of Leeds & Grenville "Read to Every Child Every Day document)*

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language skills or are interested in how your child is doing, call the Language Express Preschool Speech System at **1-888-503-8885/613-283-2742**. A speech-language assessment can identify your child's strengths and needs, and can help you prepare your child for school. For more information check out our website:

[www.language-express.ca](http://www.language-express.ca).