# PROJECT SPONSORED BY:

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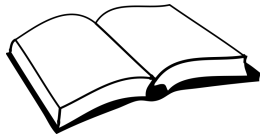
# GROWING READERS

A collaborative project between service providers, civic organizations, non-profit groups, the public library and the school district.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO GROW A PASSION FOR READING IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

# GROWING READERS



The Growing Readers project is an innovative collaboration among Tonawanda Pediatrics, the Grand Island Central School District and local community groups to increase a child's success with developing early literacy skills, through the promotion of parents reading aloud with their infants. Pediatricians can provide advice on the importance of developing early literacy skills through read-aloud activities, and influence a culture of reading within the family. **This project will focus its efforts on having an island pediatrician distribute a book to an infant's caregiver at "well baby" visits in the 2nd, 6th, 12th, 18th and 24th months.** The books will be kept by the families and the infant's library will grow with each visit.

# Reading Aloud

Reading books aloud together is one of the best ways you can help your child learn to read. The more delight you show when you read a book, the more your child will enjoy it. The most important thing is to make reading a part of your daily routine and have fun doing it!

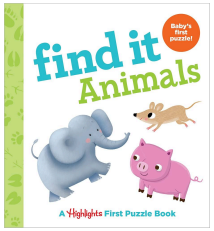
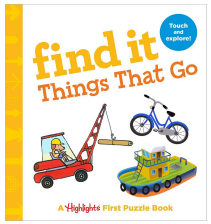
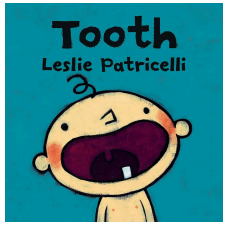
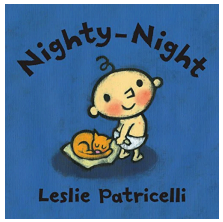
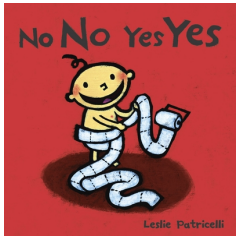
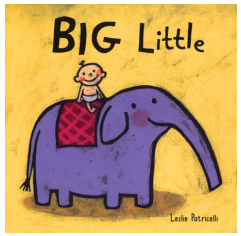
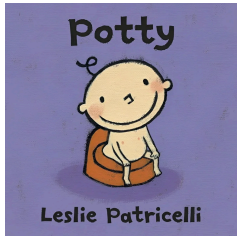
When parents talk, read, and sing with their babies and toddlers, connections are formed in their young brains. These connections build language, literacy, and social–emotional skills at an important time in a young child's development and strengthen the bond between parent and child.

## ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS...

Babies' eyes open widely to watch parents' faces and to listen to their voices. They learn to sit, stand, and explore objects. They learn to understand and respond to your words and your emotions and to trust. Looking at and talking about books with babies in the first year of their life strengthens all of these abilities.

## SHARING BOOKS WITH YOUR CHILD:

- Children enjoy sharing books with you, the most important person in their world.
- They love the special one-on-one attention they get when you read with them.
- Looking at and talking about books with babies help teach them to talk.
- Reading books with children helps them start learning to love books.
- Set aside a few quiet minutes every day for sharing books together.
- This time should be free of TV, texting, and other distractions.
- This may become the best time of your day!

| Age | Title(s) |
| --- | --- |
| 2 months | |
| 6 months |     |
| 12 months |     |
| 18 months |     |
| 24 months |  |