**General Book Selection Guidance**

**Newborn (0-4 months)**

* The content of the book matters less now than at later ages; reading any book that the parent likes can enhance language exposure.
* Older siblings may enjoy hearing their favorite books, or even reading aloud themselves to the baby
* Songs and nursery rhymes that parents can learn and use to interact with baby

**4 to 6 Months**

* High contrast books can provide a focus during tummy time
* Look for books with not many words on a page—babies do not need to hear long stories and parents can be prompted to talk about the pictures
* Touch and feel books

**6 Months**

* Board books
* Simple pictures or high contrast images with no words or 1 word per page
* Babies this age love to see other babies' faces

**9 Months**

* Board books
* Simple pictures with 1 or 2 words per page
* Pictures with labels
* Pictures of babies, animals or things they see every day – balls, bottles, chairs, dogs

**12 Months**

* Board books
* Pages can contain multiple items or busier scenes with one sentence per page
* Labeling words
* Small books for small hands

**15 Months**

* Board books
* Books with simple rhymes or predictable text (“Five little monkeys, jumping on the ...”
* Pages with 1-2 sentences and more complex images
* Goodnight books for bedtime
* Books about saying goodbye and hello
* Books about food and families

**18 Months**

* Board books
* Rhyming verses or songs
* 3-4 lines per page or more complex images or vocabulary
* Books with questioning (“Where is the…?” “What does that say…?”)
* Books that show children doing familiar things – sleeping, eating, playing

**2 Years**

* Board or paperback
* Storyline is beginning to develop, simple language and vocabulary, stories advance from simply identifying objects into having a plot and characters
* Creates opportunities for dialogic reading (questioning, interaction)
* Counting and alphabet books
* Books about food, animals, trucks, and other favorite objects

**3 Years**

* Paperback (or board)
* Simple story with characters, beginning/middle/end
* Simple vocabulary
* Books about going to school or daycare

**4 Years**

* Storyline with identifiable characters, setting, beginning/middle/end
* Vocabulary can be more challenging
* Content can be more abstract or introducing new concepts
* Books about making friends
* Books about children who look like and live like them – and also books about different places and different ways of living

**5 Years**

* Plot includes characters, setting, beginning/middle/end
* Problem with a solution
* More words per page, vocabulary more challenging