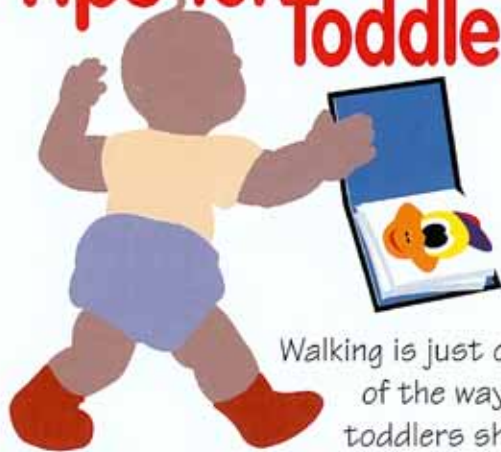


School Stuff

Tips for Toddlers



Walking is just one of the ways toddlers show their increasing independence.

Stepping out into the world needs to parallel stepping further into the world of literacy. Provide toddlers with choices, opportunities, and experiences that will enable them to feel capable and powerful. The following tips will help you in this process.

- While you will want to read some books with paper pages, make sure that many of the books you choose are safe and easy for a toddler to hold. Some examples include board books as well as plastic and cloth books.
- Point out "everyday" print in the environment. Read signs, billboards, cereal boxes, anything that has words on it.

- Take your child to the library and build a habit that will last a lifetime. Checking out books is an economical way to expand your reading selections.
- Have conversations with your toddler about everyday events. Give him the chance to build vocabulary and express himself.
- Encourage your child if she pretends to read. This activity teaches her the relationship between print and reading, and how to handle the book as a reader.
- Allow your child to "read" with you by saying recurring phrases or sentences as you read aloud together. Some toddlers are very active listeners and prefer to stand while listening to a story.
- Talk about the story when you finish reading. Relate it to your toddler's experiences by asking questions. Toddlers have lots of questions, too, which they may ask while you're reading the book.

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