

This Parenting Magazine is an internal magazine for parents with children enrolled at International Child Care Centres SmartKids and is part of our childcare service.

With this magazine we will provide suitable guidance on general issues regarding early childhood challenges from around the world but using the individual child's social and emotional development as the main compass.

Parents around the world want what they believe is best for their children. However, parents in different cultures have different ideas of what is best. Italian parents value social and emotional abilities and having an even temperament. Spanish parents want their children to be sociable. Swedish parents value security and happiness. Dutch parents value independence, long attention spans, and predictable schedules. Vietnamese parents want to step away from the state schooling.

Differences in values cause parents to interpret actions in different ways.

Asking questions is seen by American parents as a sign that the child is smart. Italian parents, who value social and emotional competence, believe that asking questions is a sign that the child has good interpersonal skills. In Asia parents and teachers are authorities, not to be argued with, or questioned.

For questions, contributions or advertising contact:
parenting@smartkids.edu.vn

Electronic copies of all previous articles can be found at:
<http://www.smartkidsinfo.com/parentingMagazine/parentingMagazine.html>

Early-Language development

Book Time

Children can learn new words and concepts from pictures in books. To promote vocabulary comprehension, remember that photos are the best representation of an object; life-like drawings are second.

Cartoon pictures do not give the most accurate description of an object but will hold your child's interest. Look for books with colorful, clear pictures that are not busy. Young toddlers need to see pictures with only a few objects on a page. Don't worry about the words and sentences written in the book. You can ignore the printed material while looking at pictures and naming them. Ask your child to find an object on the page and help him/her to develop pointing skills. Here are helpful hints for book time.



Helpful Hints for Toddler Book Time.

- Let your toddler choose a book from a group of two to four.
- Board books with thick pages do not tear easily. Note during reading time there are also other behaviours and fine motor-skills trained
- Let your toddler help turn pages.
- Toddlers love books with flaps inside that can be opened to reveal a hidden picture. It is best to read these books together to avoid tearing the flaps.
- Practice finding pictures on the page. "Where's the puppy?" Help your child learn to point with one finger.
- As your child begins to use words, ask, "What's this?" "What is he doing?" "Is that a duck?"
- Children love to cuddle when reading a book. Occasionally, sit across from your child to allow face-to-face contact, while looking at the pictures. Watching a person's mouth form a word helps a toddler say the word accurately. Try sitting on the floor in front of a chair or sofa where your child is sitting to look at a book. This will put your face at the level of the book.
- Point to your mouth when you say a word in the book.
- Put together some props that go along with a storybook. If your book is about a teddy bear that eats his dinner and goes to bed, find a bear, spoon, cup, and blanket. Reenact the story with your props.

by Linda Mawhinney & Mary Scott McTeague

