SHAPES

Sizes and Shapes are very important for early development. All objects can be described with these two concepts. Understanding shapes also helps children better grasp how to form letters.

**Animal shapes** by Christopher Silas Neal

**Baby’s Shapes** by Karen Katz

**Big Little** by Leslie Patricelli

**Mouse Shapes** by Ellen Stoll Walsh

**My Very First Book of Shapes** by Eric Carle

**Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes** by Roseanne Thong and John Parra

**Shapes** by John J. Reiss

**What Is That?** by Tana Hoban

**It’s Circle Time! Shapes** by Nomar Perez

**COUNTING**

Concept books are instructional books that help babies start to label and identify their world. The best of these books teach and entertain children at the same time.

*10 Little Rubber Ducks* by Eric Carle

**Big Fat Hen** by Keith Baker

**City Lullaby** by Marilyn Singer

**Counting** by Fleur Star (braille and print)

**Counting Kisses: A Kiss & Read Book** by Karen Katz

*Counting with Frida/Contando con Frida*

by Patty Rodriguez

*First 100 Numbers* by Roger Priddy

*One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss

*Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes/Diez dedito de las mano y diez deditos de los pies* by Roger Priddy

**Ten, Nine, Eight** by Molly Bang

**DIVERSITY**

To build a positive sense of self, children need to see themselves, their families and traditions in the images shown and the books read to them. Emotional expression is interconnected with your baby’s brain development.

**All Fall Down** by Helen Oxenbury

**Babies Around the World** by Puck and Violet Lemay

**Can I Join Your Club?** by John Kelly

**Close Your Eyes** by Kate Banks

**Cuddle** by Elizabeth Verdick

**Everywhere Babies** by Susan Meyers

**Eyes, Nose, Fingers and Toes: A First Book All About You** by Judy Hindley

**Families** by Rena D. Grossman

**Fiesta Babies** by Carmen Tafolla

*Global Babies/Bebés del mundo*

by Global Fund for Children

**Guess How Much I Love You** by Sam McBratney

*Hug Machine* by Scott Campbell

**I Can** by Helen Oxenbury

**I Love You Through and Through** by Bernadette Rossetti

**I Wish You More** by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

**Kitten’s First Full Moon** by Kevin Henkes

*Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle

**Littles and How They Grow** by Kelly DiPucchio

**Making Faces: A First Book of Emotions** by Abrams Appleseed

**Mama, Do You Love Me** by Barbara M. Joosse and Barbara Lavallee

**More, More, More Said the Baby** by Vera B. Williams

**Shades of Black: A Celebration of our Children** by Sandra Pinkney

For more information about Welcome Baby, please contact: WelcomeBaby@cmhouston.org, call 713-535-7206, or visit us at www.cmhouston.org/welcomebaby
The books listed here are highly recommended by many sources, including the librarian and educators at the Children's Museum of Houston. You can find most of these titles in the public library for free when using a library card. Check each book off as you read and see how many you can read to your child before they turn three years old!

*Indicates that books are available in Spanish
*Indica libros disponibles en español

**DAILY ROUTINES**

Here is a list of stories to introduce daily routines to your baby.

- *Bathtime for Little Rabbit* by Jorg Muhle
- *Bedtime 123* by Eric Walters
- *Goodnight Moon/Buenas noches Luna* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Nighty-night* by Leslie Paricelli
- *Peekaboo Bedtime* by Rachel Isadora
- *Say Goodnight* by Helen Oxenbury
- *Ten Tiny Babies* by Karen Katz
- *The Going to Bed Book* by Sandra Boynton
- *Time for Bed* by Mem Fox
- *Tubby/Baño* by Leslie Patricelli
- *Let's Sing, Baby!: A Fun and Easy Way to Talk with Baby* by Kelly Ault and Leo Landry
- *Pat-a-Cake* by Annie Kubler
- *Random House Book of Mother Goose* by Arnold Lobel
- *Sign Language ABC* by Lora Heller
- *Tickle Tickle (Board Book)* by Helen Oxenbury
- *My Car/Mi carro* by Byron Barton
- *Say Hello!* by Rachel Isadora
- *Where is Baby's Belly Button?/Donde esta el ombliguito?* by Karen Katz

**LANGUAGES**

Books that pair a picture with a word help babies learn new vocabulary. Teaching your baby sign language helps them communicate before their oral language is developed.

- *Baby Signs: A Baby-Sized Introduction to Speaking with Sign Language* by Blackstone and Scribens
- *Baby Sign Language for Hearing Babies* by Karyn Warburton
- *First 100 Words/Primeras 100 palabras* by Roger Priddy

**ANIMALS**

Animal books are interesting to babies and animals can play very symbolic roles in stories and toys. The animal sounds and bright colors make reading to your baby fun!

- *Animales: libro de contrastes* by Roger Priddy
- *Barnyard Banter* by Denise Fleming
- *Big Red Barn/El gran granero rojo* by M. Wise Brown and F. Bond
- *Baby: Woof Woof!* by DK Publishing
- *Dear Zoo: A Lift the Flap Book* by Rod Campbell
- *Go, Dog, Go!/¡Corre, perro, corre!* by P.D. Eastman
- *Good Night, Gorilla* by Roger Priddy
- *Hello, Day!* by Anita Lobel
- *Honk Honk! Baa Baa!* by Petr Horacek
- *Hooray for Fish!* by Lucy Cousins
- *I am a Bunny* by Ole Risom
- *Moo, Baa, La La La!* by Sandra Boynton
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar/La oruga muy hambrienta* by Eric Carle
- *Where's Spot* by Eric Hill

**COLORS**

Colors are an important language concept that allow us to describe our world. High contrast books in black and white are ideal for younger babies while books with bright colors are great for brain stimulation for infants older than 3 months.

- *Blocks* by Irene Dickson
- *Blue Hat, Green Hat* by Sandra Boynton
- *Colors* by John J. Reiss.
- *Colors and Shapes* by Kathleen Petelinsek
- *Freight Train/Tren da carga* by Donald Crews
- *Happy Baby Colores = Colors* by Roger Priddy
- *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin

**FACES**

Human faces are interesting to babies at birth. Research has shown that an infant pays attention to human faces longer than anything else.

- *Baby Face: A Book of Love for Baby* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Baby Faces* by DK Publishing
- *Hello Baby: Faces: A High-Contrast Board Book* by Roger Priddy

**TOUCH AND FEEL BOOKS**

Babies use their senses to learn about the world around them. Sensory stimulation is linked to emotional, cognitive and physical development.

- *Animal Kisses/Besos de animals* by Barney Saltzberg
- *Baby Duck and the Cozy Blanket* by Amy Hest
- *Baby, Touch and Feel: Animals Board Book* by DK Publishing

**NURSERY RHYMES**

Nursery Rhymes are important for babies because they help develop an ear for the rhythm of language.

- *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Janet Ahlberg
- *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* by Annie Kubler
- *Mother Goose: Numbers on the Loose* by Leo and Diane Dillon
- *Piñito Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes/Piñito Peep! Rimas Tradicionales en Espanol* by Alma Alor Ada and F. Isabel
- *Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes* by Salley Mavor
- *To Market, to Market* by Anne Miranda
- *Humpty Who?: A Crash Course in 80 Nursery Rhymes for Clueless Moms and Dads* by Jennifer Griffin