



The Terryville Public Library Children's Department recognizes that each child is different and develops skills in motor, social, language, etc. areas at different rates. Children's temperaments may also determine their ability to focus, participate or interact. We acknowledge and respect each child's individual skills and create opportunities for their success in storytime.

**Bouncing Babies (Prewalkers Birth – 15 months old)
Mondays, 10:30 – 11:15 am**

Description of age group:

Babies develop quickly during their first year of life, and their abilities dramatically grow and change. Babies begin to develop some control over their bodies such as holding up their heads, rolling over, sitting up, crawling, standing, and some may even walk by the end of the first year. They become aware of themselves as separate from others. Babies will also learn to play games. In the first months they play with their hands or feet. Later they begin to show interest in toys and will eventually hug and carry stuffed animals or dolls. They learn to recognize their names. Babies during the first year will develop interest in other children. Babies will also begin to communicate and develop language skills. They first cry and make throaty sounds. Later they babble and say, "Mama" or "Dada." The sounds turn into words as babies begin to name a few familiar people and objects.

What a typical storytime includes:

Bouncing Babies is a language enrichment program that typically follows a set routine each week. Parents and babies are welcomed to the room and will sit in a semi-circle on the rug. We begin with an opening song that children will become familiar with over the course of the session. We will do multiple rhymes, songs, and movement activities, and most rhymes will be repeated. We will use books during the storytime to introduce rhymes, and families will be able to share books together before playtime.

Why we include these elements:

- Understanding children's need for routine, our typical storytime provides consistency in the opening song, rhymes used, movement activities presented, and closing activity and song.
- During this time, a nurturing environment is critical to children's healthy development. Children are comforted by being close to loving parents or caregivers who respond to their cries and gurgles and who keep them safe and comfortable. We encourage children to experience storytime with an adult through baby exercises, gentle bouncing rhymes, or rhymes that end with a hug or tickle.

- It's important to children's language development to hear many different sounds and words. We read short stories with colorful pictures, varied vocabulary and opportunities for participation.
- We also recognize that children at this age have an extremely short attention span. They are simply too busy decoding their world to remain attentive for long periods of time. We provide many short, varied activities to provide stimulation for babies' active minds. Please don't feel uncomfortable if your child explores the room during stories or songs. They are still benefiting from hearing the stories and sounds.
- Children at this age also enjoy listening to music, which we utilize at several points in the program.

What parents or caregivers can do to make storytime more effective:

Because Bouncing Babies is often the first "large group" experience for babies, becoming comfortable with the environment may take time.

It is important in maintaining routine to be on time to storytime. Late arrivals can also be a distraction to other children.

If your baby is fussing and cannot be calmed (not cause for embarrassment or unease), please take them out of the room for a few minutes until you are able to soothe them. You are welcome to return when they are ready.

Help your child prepare for storytime by reading with them at home and playing bouncing or clapping games. They will quickly become familiar with the routines of reading and playing and will look forward to it. They will also enjoy being close to you during these activities.

Repeat rhymes at home with your children to prolong the positive experience of the library visit. Your librarian will provide you with a listing of the commonly used rhymes and movement activities at the beginning of the session.