From birth to five, a child's brain develops faster than at any other point in life, forming over a million new connections every second, and research shows that reading early can strengthen your child's early language and literacy skills and set the foundation for reading comprehension.

Here are some tips from Ounce experts to help make the most of story time with your child:

- **Make reading a part of your daily routine**—establishing a routine helps ensure that reading is part of your daily schedule, such as at naptime and bedtime. It also creates times during the day that both of you can look forward to.

- **Ask your child questions**—as you read to your child, make the experience interactive by asking questions, such as “what do you think will happen next?” Parents can even have their child tell them a story based on the pictures shown.

- **Count objects on the page**—as you read to your child, count objects on the page together to help strengthen early math skills.

- **Read with passion**—using inflection and maintaining the same highs and lows in your voice at the same point in a story helps your child begin to remember the words.

- **Set an example**—let your child see you reading your books to help develop their own love of reading.

Whether your child is a newborn or about to head to kindergarten, here are some great books to read during story time:

- **Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?: Dr. Seuss's Books of Wonderful Noises** by Dr. Seuss
- **One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish** by Dr. Seuss – Introduce your child to the concepts of counting, colors and rhymes with this book.
- **Little Blue Truck** by Alice Schertle
- **Smile, Baby Faces Board Book** by Roberta Grobel Intrater – This book features photos of babies from varying backgrounds instilling the concept of diversity.
- **Giraffes Can’t Dance** by Giles Andreae
- **Peekaboo Morning** by Rachel Isadora – A perfect book for teaching the concept of repetition.
- **We’re Different, We’re the Same** by Bobbi Jane Kates
- **Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!** by Mo Willems – A great book highlighting the benefits of a bedtime routine.
- **Grumpy Monkey** by Suzanne Lang
- **This is My Hair** by Todd Parr – This book promotes lessons in self-confidence and acceptance.

For more parenting resources and activities, visit theOunce.org/Parents.