During the second year of life, a lot of language learning takes place. Children transition from a baby’s babbling of a few words to a large vocabulary of understood words and a beginning vocabulary of spoken words. Choose a variety of books for this age.

**Tips for selecting books for toddlers**

- A toddler will still enjoy washable vinyl and cloth books.

- Adding board books will make the reading experience more positive. Board books come in a size that is easy to handle, and the pages are easy to turn.

- Choose books with simple, clearly illustrated everyday objects on an uncluttered background. A toddler will like to touch, point out, and name the colorful realistic objects. Books with photographs are also good.

- When selecting books for a toddler, take into account the child’s interests. For example, a child may take particular delight in books about trucks or about animals.

- Books with illustrations in bright, clear primary colors will catch a toddler’s eye better than pastel or muted pictures.

- Choose wordless books to spark imaginations and encourage early conversations.

- Playful sounds are important, so select books with lots of rhythm and rhyme. Books based on nursery rhymes, traditional songs, and finger-plays are good. Sing and move to these familiar favorites.

- By the middle of the second year, a toddler will be ready for simple story books with easy, familiar plots.

- Stories that have lots of repetition and a common refrain make it fun for toddlers to join in and “read.”

- Select books that present simple concepts like shapes, colors, and first alphabet and counting.
• To help toddlers become interested in stories, choose storybooks where the characters – whether they are people or animals – are involved in familiar toddler experiences.

• Avoid choosing books that have “scary” pictures or stories.

• Select simple object picture books with labeled illustrations. When sharing these with toddlers, point to the picture and to the printed word.

• Select books that are appropriate to the toddler’s cultural background.

• Choose books that picture diverse people in non-stereotypical roles and situations.