

itty-bitty art

Baby Book Guide

What does a museum-loving baby's bookshelf look like? This handy guide includes book lists, helpful blogs, and other resources for building a more diverse, art-centered book collection for your family. Curl up with a good book and spend some quality time looking, laughing, and reading!

Baby Books We Love:

May We Have Enough to Share, by Richard Van Camp

Black Bear, Red Fox: Colours in Cree by Julie Flett

Be Who You Are by Todd Parr

A Line Can Be, by Laura Ljungkvist

Cerca/Close and *Lejos/Far*, by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Blanca Gomez Siesta

A Tisket, a Tasket, by Ella Fitzgerald, illustrated by Ora Eitan

Market Day: A Story Told with Folk Art, by Lois Ehlert

So Many Sounds, by Tim McCanna, illustrated by Andy J. Miller

Find New Books

Books don't have to have paintbrushes or famous artists on the cover to be artistic. Search for books with a variety of illustration styles, exciting new words, and diverse topics to keep the creativity flowing!

Multicultural Children's Book Day

Colors of Us

Imagination Soup

American Indians in Children's Literature: Best Books

¡Colorín Colorado!



Tips for Reading Books with Baby:

Every child is different and learns at their own pace. Even babies who are too young to talk learn a lot about language from watching and listening to you talk, sing, and read.

Take your time! Pause to point at illustrations, ask questions, and make predictions.

Mention colors, shapes, and objects that you notice.

Connect the words and illustrations to your home or family history. Use phrases like “this reminds me of” or “this is just like.”

Make reading a part of your daily routine (before sleep, after breakfast, or at the park!).

Have fun with sensory books that incorporate textures, sounds, or smells.

For more information:

- Reach Out & Read: Reading with Your Infant
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Early Literacy Resources
- Reach Out & Read: Milestones of Early Literacy Development (English and Spanish)

Reading in the Community:

The Fort Worth Public Library is building a community of learners, dreamers, and doers with the help of great collaborators across the City of Fort Worth. Explore their uniquely creative and diverse programming for all ages on their YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/fwlibrary](https://www.youtube.com/fwlibrary).



Let's Read an Artwork!

Reading isn't just for books. At the Carter, we read artworks every day!
Let's practice using some of our reading tips with this watercolor painting
by Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge.



Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge (1824-1913)

View on the Guadalupe, Seguin, Texas

1853

Transparent and opaque watercolor over graphite on paper

4 3/4 x 7 1/2 in.

Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives, Fort Worth,

Texas, Gift of Natalie K. Shastid

1984.3.14

look

Describe the artwork to your baby.

Name the colors and the shapes that you see.

Use your finger to trace the objects you notice. Count the boats as you point to each row.

Guide baby's finger to trace the river and wave hello to the people.

ask

Create a story about the artwork for your baby by asking these questions out loud and answering them:

Where are the boats going?

What are the people doing?

What happens next in our imaginary story?

connect

Point out similar subjects, colors, or shapes around your home.

Describe what it might be like to ride on a boat, and spend some time rocking back and forth with your baby like you're floating on the waves.

Sing Row, Row, Row Your Boat with some new verses! Singing with your baby is great for bonding as well as building memory and vocabulary.

Look on your bookshelves or at your library for books about boats, rivers, oceans, fish, or other watery topics!

Ready for more? Find plenty of Carter artworks to read [online](#) or in the [Museum](#)!

