# RECOGNIZING Early Literacy behaviors

The interactions that young children have with literacy materials such as books, paper, and crayons are building blocks for language, reading, and writing development. Every encounter with words and stories - from playing with books and singing nursery rhymes to listening to stories and recognizing words, to scribbling and drawing - builds the foundation for language and literacy development.

Here are some early literacy behaviors to look for:



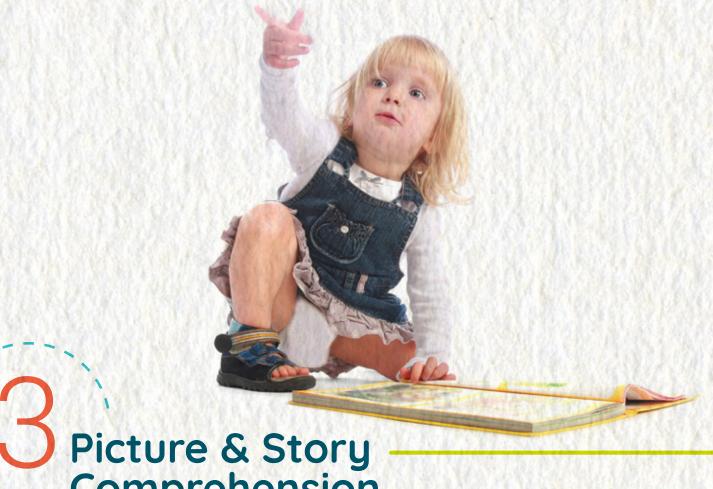
### Looking & Recognizing

Paying attention to and interacting with pictures in books, such as gazing at pictures or laughing at a favorite picture

Showing recognition of and beginning to understand pictures in books, such as pointing to familiar object

#### **Book Handling**

Physical manipulation or handling of books, such as page turning and chewing



Understanding of pictures and events in a book, such as imitating an action seen in a picture or talking about events in a story

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## Comprehension

Story-Reading

Verbal interactions with books and increasing

understanding of print in books, such as babbling in imitation of reading or running fingers along printed words



#### Adapted from ZERO TO THREE

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