



## How to Start a Baby Program at Your Library

1. Make a sheet of 10-15 of favorite, easy rhymes for infants: nursery rhymes, songs you remember, fingerplays, lullabies. Put in plastic sleeve for each participant.
2. Determine what day and time. Give your program a name! All you really need is a few board books and a place to sit on the floor.
3. Talk to families already visiting the library with babies. Put out a colorful flier with information about your new program.
4. Send information to your local newspaper. Send or deliver fliers to clinics, doctor offices, preschools. . . wherever you will find young children.
5. On the day of the program, check to be sure space is child-proof and safe. Put board books in a small circle on the floor and greet the families that arrive. Give everyone time to get settled.
6. Start with an opening rhyme that you like. 10-15 minutes of songs and rhymes is plenty. . . feel free to ask other parents for suggestions. Make it relaxed and comfortable for both you and the parents or caregivers.
7. Have an ending ritual, such as "Twinkle twinkle little star" or another rhyme. Encourage parents to stay to visit, and get any simple toys out for children to play with. I ask parents to donate extra toys to us. Balls are great, inexpensive toys along with some soft blocks.
8. Be available if you can to answer any questions or to help parents find materials they might need. Thank everyone for coming! Encourage them to tell their friends and neighbors who have a baby. . . and remind them dads, grandparents, and caregivers are all welcome!