



Spiritual Advisor
Reverend Monsignor
Ronny E. Jenkins

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Dear Chapter Presidents,

The National Christ Child Society Board is delighted to present our chapters with an addition to the nationwide layette program. In order to encourage new parents to read, talk and sing with their babies, the *Read to Me* card should be included with each layette, preferably with a board book for baby, in order to start each child on the road to literacy and learning.

Studies have shown that babies born into poverty are less likely to be prepared for Kindergarten than their middle class counterparts. Experiencing language in all its forms, learning how to handle and explore books, and absorbing the process of decoding the written word develop the brain and build skills that benefit children for the rest of their lives. Early childhood education, especially through parental interaction, is known to be the cornerstone of academic achievement and future economic success.

Read to Me is designed to give parents and caregivers tips on how to engage their babies in language-developing activities. This may be a small step toward literacy, but as part of a growing, nation-wide awareness of the value of early childhood education, it is an important and life-changing message.

Read to Me is also available as an 11x14 poster. A pdf of the poster will be made available to each chapter to print and post in whatever facility you may use for your programs. *Read to Me* is the property of the National Christ Child Society, so please keep that in mind when deciding where and how to use it. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at bbarrett@nationalchristchildsoc.org or call the office at 301-881-2490.

In the Name of the Christ Child,

Beth Barrett

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I learn words when you point to things and name them in my world and in books.

Even though I can't talk yet, I love it when you talk to me.

Reading with you is fun!

When we cuddle with a book before bedtime, I calm down and get ready to go to sleep.

The more words I hear you say or sing, the better I will be able to learn in school.

I feel safe and comforted when I sit on your lap.

My brain develops when you read to me!



Read to Me!

- Words, shapes and colors are everywhere!
- Read the labels in stores and words on signs and billboards.
- Find colors and shapes in the world around you.
- Every day is a learning day for babies and children.



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Aprendo palabras cuando tú señalas cosas y las nombras en mi mundo y en los libros.

A pesar de que todavía no puedo hablar, me encanta cuando me hablas.

¡La lectura junto a ti es divertida!

Cuantas más palabras te escucho decir o cantar, mejor podré aprender en la escuela.

Me siento seguro y cómodo cuando me siento contigo.

Cuando nos acurrucamos con un libro antes de ir a la cama, me calmo y me preparo para dormir.

¡Mi cerebro se desarrolla cuando me lees!



¡Léeme!

- ¡Las palabras, las formas y los colores están en todas partes!
- Lee las etiquetas de las tiendas y las palabras de los carteles y letreros.
- Encuentra los colores y las formas del mundo que te rodea.
- Todos los días son días de aprendizaje para los bebés y los niños.



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