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**Reading to children aged 0–3 years and the association with home literacy environment and early language development**

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Early reading to children plays an important role in their language development. However, current data on the beginning of parent-child reading is lacking. The presented study aims at a representative assessment and a description of the reading habits of parents with children aged 3 to 39 months in Germany. Parental reading behaviours, age of onset of storybook reading, the home literacy environment (HLE), the children's level of language skills and family background were all assessed in face-to-face interviews with parents (N = 523). Most parents (79.0 %; n = 413) reported reading to their child within the first three years, with an average age of onset of storybook reading at 10 months of age (M = 9.90, SD = 6.67). Parents who read to their young child differed significantly from parents who do not in regard to the educational and migration background, the frequency of everyday activities they engage in with their child, and parental beliefs about child development. Furthermore, we found significant associations between HLE, frequency of storybook reading, and children's level of language skills. We will discuss implications of the results for the promotion of early childhood literacy and reading skills.