

EPISODE **116**

Reading with Babies, Connection Parenting, and Getting Books into the Hands of Every Child

Guest: Pam Leo

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Meet Pam Leo



Pam Leo is an independent scholar in human development, a parent educator, a certified childbirth educator, a doula, a parent, and a grandparent, who has been studying human behavior since her first child was born in 1972.

She has explored child development, psychology, sociology, and anthropology in an effort to understand the parent-child bond, and how we can best parent our kids, starting from the moment we find out they are on the way.

The author of *Connection Parenting*, Pam also teaches workshops including one called Bonding with Your Baby.

In This Episode

Sarah and Pam discuss how to be more effective as parents, reading with babies, favorite books for babies and more.

The Listening Guide

Use this guide to skip to parts that most interest you, or listen to the entire podcast.

- 1:43 Meet Pam Leo
- 3:19 Marrying two loves
- 5:18 Our effectiveness as parents
- 6:38 Reading with babies
- 9:31 'Reading Voice'
- 10:37 Favorite books for babes
- 13:57 Sign language books & wordless books
- 20:20 Brain-building
- 23:13 Building a 'Bridge'
- 24:59 The Book Fairy Pantry Project
- 32:07 Let the Kids Speak

"Our effectiveness as parents is in direct proportion to the strength of the bond that we have with our child." -

Pam Leo

Quotes and Questions

* **The value of connection ...**

"If children are going to care about what we think, how we feel, what we want, that's going to be because they are connected to us and have a bond with us ..."

* **Becoming human ...**

"Connection is what turns human babies into human beings."

* **An association with love.**

"It doesn't really matter what we're reading. **It's the closeness and listening to the rhythm of the written word that babies are just entranced by it**, and they begin to associate books with being held, with being loved, with having attention, and so, right from the very beginning they love books because it is love to them."

* **Setting kids up for success ...**

"We know for certain that children who are read to have better vocabulary, and the vocabulary at kindergarten-age is a big indicator of how hard schooling will be, so we can set our kids up for success."

* **Thriving, through books**

"One of the things you say on your site is '**only the children with books can read and only the children who can read will thrive.**' And I read that three times and my heart started beating a little faster, because yes!"

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Good Night, Gorilla](#)
- [The Read-Aloud Handbook](#)
- [Bridge to Terabithia](#)
- [Pancakes for Breakfast](#)
- [Connection Parenting](#)
- [Reading Magic](#)
- [Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star](#)
- [The Itsy-Bitsy Spider](#)
- [You Are My Sunshine](#)
- [Baby Beluga](#)
- [Down By the Bay](#)
- [Goodnight Thomas](#)
- [Rain](#)
- [Noah's Ark](#)
- [Chalk](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [Read Aloud 15 Minutes](#)
- [Please Read to Me by Pam Leo](#)
- [Book Fairy Pantry Project](#)
- [Book Fairy Pantry Project on Facebook](#)
- Get our list of picture books for December, the FREE booklist and more - go to readaloudrevival.com or text BOOKS to 345345

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit ReadAloudRevival.com.