



Family Literacy Tip Sheets

Choosing Quality Children's Books

- There is a wide range of good children's books available.
- Good books help children think about experiences all people have.
- Excellent illustrations support and extend stories.
- Children often like simple books—children's books don't need to be complicated.
- Different topics appeal to boys and girls and to children of different ages.
- Children's books that reflect a family's culture and language are important.
- Children should be encouraged to question the information in books.
- Children need to see books and other reading materials in their first language.

Recommended Authors

Look for these authors and illustrators whose names are on quality children's books.

Please use the following books and authors as guidelines rather than as must haves. Not all of them will be available at your library or bookstore.

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|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • Paulette Bourgeois | • Shirley Hughes | • Nancy Shaw |
| • Sandra Boynton | • Rachel Isadora | • Jane Simmons |
| • Marc Brown | • Dorothy Kunhardt | • Peter Spier |
| • Eric Carle | • Jonathon London | • Kathy Stinson |
| • Tomie de Paola | • Mercer Mayer | • Nancy Tafuri |
| • Frank B. Edwards | • Robert Munsch | • Lauren Thompson |
| • Eugenie Fernandes | • Laura Numeroff | • Rosemary Wells |
| • Mem Fox | • Helen Oxenbury | • Cindy Wheeler |
| • Phoebe Gilman | • Peggy Parish | • Nancy Wilcox Richards |
| • Mirra Ginsburg | • Barbara Reid | • Audrey Wood |
| • Eric Hill | • Eve Rice | • Harriet Ziefert |
| • Tana Hoban | • Dr. Seuss | • Margaret Wise Brown |

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Tips for Sharing Books

Getting Started

1. Let your child choose a book. Share the book with your child, take your time.
2. Have your child close to you when you read.
3. Tell your child the name of the book and say what it is about.

Reading along

1. From time to time, as you read, move your finger along the words from left to right so your child sees how the words work on the page. Point out details in the pictures to help your child understand what is happening.
2. Use your voice to hold the child's attention. Children love it when you use expression when you read.
3. Encourage children to repeat important phrases. This helps the child to be included as a reader.
4. You can try *paired reading* where you read together to help build your child's confidence in reading aloud.
5. Encourage your children to act out what is being read. For example, if a character is swimming, pretend to swim.

Talking about it

1. Talk about the story with your child.
2. Help your child connect actions, themes or characters with other books they have read.
3. Encourage children to interact throughout the story by pointing to the pictures and by asking questions.

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An ABC for Parents



Act out a story with your child.

Babies enjoy looking at pictures with bright colours and faces.

Connect what happens in the book to your child's life.

Decide to make time to share a book with your child every day.

Encourage your child to tell you about their drawings.

Find comfortable places to read.

Go for a walk and talk about the signs along the way.

Help your child build language by singing, rhyming and talking every day.

Include everyone in sharing family stories.

Jump in and play with your child.

Keep TV time to no more than one hour a day.

Let your child see you reading and writing.

Make a batch of cookies and count how many there are.

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An ABC for Parents *Continued*



Newborns benefit from reading too.

Open a book and make up a story using just the pictures.

Play a game together.

Questions your child asks help her learn.

Recognize and reward your child's early attempts at reading and writing.

Scribbles are the first step in becoming a writer.

Tell your child stories about your day.

Use events that happen every day to teach your child about the world.

Visit your local library and let your child choose a book.

Write a letter or a shopping list together.

Xpect your child to be active. Count how many times they can hop or jump.

Your child loves to hear you talk, sing and read with him.

Zzz – a good time to read can be just before bed.

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