



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.
- Good children's books reflect a family's culture and language.
- Children need to see books and other reading materials in the language spoken at home.
- Children should be encouraged to question the information in books.
- Book choices are subjective – not all authors or books appeal to all readers.
- Different topics appeal to different ages and to boys and girls.

Authors and illustrators to check out

Amy Krouse Rosenthal
Annabel Karmel
Barbara Reid
Bill Thomson
Charles Fuge
Clare Beaton
Eric Carle
Eve Rice
Freda Ahenakew
Geneviève Côté
Hazel Hutchins
Helen Cooper
Iris Loewen

Jane Yolen
Jonathon London
Karma Wilson
Kathryn Otoshi
Kay Choro
Laura Numeroff
Lauren Thompson
Lois Ehlert
Marc Brown
Margaret Wise Brown
Mark Teague
Mem Fox
Mercer Mayer

Nancy Tillman
Nicola I. Campbell
Olivier Dunrea
Paul Schmid
Paulette Bourgeois
Peter Spier
Rachel Isadora
Richard Van Camp
Rosemary Wells
Ruth Paul
Sandra Boynton
Tana Hoban

2014





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Types of Books for Young Children

Board books:

- The thick cardboard pages are easier for children's small hands and are very durable. A well constructed board book will have pages that pop-up to help little hands turn the pages.
- These books can be wiped off, chewed on and crawled across.

Touch and Feel, or Tactile books:

- These books encourage hands-on exploration.
- They may have flaps to open, buttons to push, different textures, noises, thicknesses and sliding pieces.
- Think about safety when purchasing any book for children. Magnetic pieces, long strings, or pieces that might come off should be avoided for very young children.

Simple Themes and Stories:

- These books go a step beyond the naming and pointing type of book.
- They often feature one main character, few words on a page, a repetitive style and objects or situations that are connected in some way.

Picture books:

- In these books, much of the meaning comes through the pictures.
- Readers can jump from words to pictures and back.
- The pictures support the printed word.

Information or Concept books:

- These books usually explore one subject, like the alphabet, counting or shapes.
- They may use just pictures or pictures with words.
- Often referred to as non-fiction books.

Predictable books:

- Patterns are repeated throughout these books.
- The reader can join in the repeated parts and actively experience the book.
- Predicting and repetition help children understand how stories are organized, gives them confidence and creates a positive association with the book.

Wordless books:

- There may be a few words but the illustrations tell the story.
- Discuss the story and encourage children to talk about what they see in the pictures.
- These are great for children and parents whose home language is not English. Use your own language to tell the story.
- Great format to use with reluctant readers and writers.

Folktales and Fairytales:

- These can be traditional or contemporary tales.
- The tales were originally passed from one generation to another verbally.
- Each culture has its own stories; however, many cultures have slightly different versions of the same story.

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