

READING TO YOUR CHILD

How to read a book to your child...

- Try to read to your child each day.
- Find a time when you and the child are relaxed and interested in reading, such as at bedtime or before or after a nap.
- Show delight and enthusiasm as you read. Never turn reading into a chore.
- Let your child choose the books and pages to read.
- Point to the pictures as you talk about them.
- Let the child help hold the book and turn the pages.
- Tell a familiar story, but leave out words or parts of sentences for your child to fill in.
- Let your child describe the pictures and tell the story to you.
- Write down your child's homemade story and read it to him.
- Ask the child to make up a story or to finish one you have started. This can be done in the car when you are traveling.
- If your child periodically does not show an interest in reading, continue to read to the child as he plays quietly. Eventually the child will again be eager to participate in reading.
- If your child appears to be too busy or inattentive to sit and read, try choosing short books to begin with. Choose books with pop up pages or flaps to help them maintain interest. Once the child attends to a few pages or a short book, try to expand by one or two pages per week.

How to choose a good book...

- Stories should be appropriate for the child's age level. Many school or public libraries offer lists of books by age range and subject matter. We have enclosed a list of recommended books and authors. The public library is a great way to check out books for free. You can visit them at 401 7th Street East.
- Pictures should be clear with not too many objects on a page.
- The pictures should tell a story that makes sense without the printed words.
- Stories should be for pleasure and fun, but include educational books, too. Some books may teach new speech sounds, concepts (such as farm animals, things we wear, colors) or morals (how to share, make friends, etc.).
- Books should help add new words to the child's vocabulary.

Good Books for Children. . .

- Ages 1-2 Simple Picture Books – Books with thick pages and one or two pictures on a page.
- Any animal books – children like to hear and say animal sounds
- Pat the Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt
- Where's Spot? by Eric Hill
- I can – Can You? By Peggy Parish
- Good Night Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
- Mx's First Word by Rosemary Wells
- Tiny Tots World Series: All by myself, Sharing
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Ages Toddler – Preschool

- The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown
- The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss
- Dr. Seuss Books : Are you My Mother? & Thumb, Thumb, Fingers, Drum
- Corduroy by Don Freeman
- Katy and the Big Snow by Virginia Lee Burton
- Dick Bruna Books : Miffy at the Beach & Miffy at the Playground
- Titch by Pat Hutchins
- Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See? By Bill Martin
- Polar Bear Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? By Bill Martin

Ages Preschool – Kindergarten

- Can I Keep Him? By Steven Kellogg
- The Little engine That Could by Watty Piper
- Dr. Seuss : Green Eggs and Ham & The Cat in the Hat
- Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
- Katy and the Big Snow by Virginia Lee Burton
- Snowy Day by Jack Ezra Keats
- Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton
- Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry Allard
- Curious George by H.A. Rey
- Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion
- I'm Going on a Bear Hunt by Sivilich
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by John Archambault
- Classic Stories: The Three Little Pigs by Paul Galdone, The Gingerbread Boy, & The Three Bears

Recommended Authors (the list is not limited to just these!):

- Eric Carle
- Margaret Wise Brown
- Denise Fleming
- Jack Ezra Keats
- Dr. Seuss
- Don and Audrey Wood
- Laura Numeroff