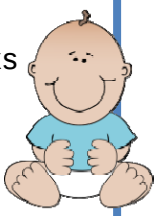
Kids Who Read Succeed!

Choosing books for your child

Children's reading interests and needs change as they grow.

Here are some basic things to look for as you help your child choose good books.

Choosing a book for a baby



- ✓ Cloth, board or washable books
- ✓ Books with different textures
- ✓ Pictures of familiar objects
- ✓ Clear colourful pictures
- ✓ Bright colours
- ✓ No words or few large print words

Choosing a book for a toddler

- ✓ Interactive - encourages child to make a sound or act
- ✓ Multi-sensory (touch and feel books)
- ✓ Stories that review basic concepts such as letters, numbers, shapes, and colors
- ✓ Nursery rhyme books
- ✓ Books about everyday life such as getting dressed, playing, eating, etc.
- ✓ Books with few words or large print words
- ✓ Simple repetitive words or phrases
- ✓ Books with bright simple pictures
- ✓ Topics that interest your toddler

Choosing a book for a pre-schooler

- ✓ Favorite books
- ✓ Interactive books
- ✓ Stories with simple plot
- ✓ Topics that interest child
- ✓ Fairy tales
- ✓ Repetitive text
- ✓ Books with large text
- ✓ Books with interesting pictures
- ✓ Books about abstract ideas or new things (different cultures, animals, tools, etc.)

What if my child isn't interested in reading or can't sit still?

- ✓ Point out or talk about print in the environment (road signs, food labels, etc.)
- ✓ It's okay to look through a book and then decide not to read the whole thing. If your child doesn't like a book after reading a few pages, pick another one. Reading is supposed to be fun, not a chore
- ✓ Choose a comfortable area with little or no distractions (TV, tablets, toys, etc.)
- ✓ Read a page or two at a time. It's okay to leave the book and come back and finish it later
- ✓ Instead of reading the words in the book, make up your own story or talk about the pictures
- ✓ Make reading a routine (bedtime)

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