

Reading to Your Child



Choosing books to read

The most important criteria is to choose a book you enjoy and that your child enjoys. It is mostly the quality of the interaction that counts.

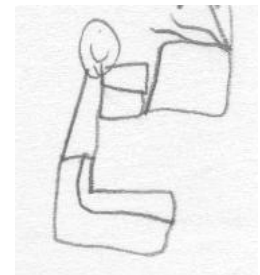
Public libraries are a great resource to help find quality books to read. Also classroom book orders will give you great ideas for popular stories and famous authors. If you don't want to purchase books through the book orders – just look for titles and authors and find the books at a store or library. Your child's teacher is another good resource to help you find great books to read.

Here are a few popular authors of quality children's literature:

Aliki	Tedd Arnold	Jan Brett	Eric Carle
Nancy Carlson	Tomie dePaola	Lois Ehlert	Mem Fox
Gail Gibbons	Kevin Henkes	Ezra Jack Keats	Robert Kraus
Leo Lionni	Bill Martin Jr.	Laura Numeroff	Dr. Seuss
Rosemary Wells	Audrey Wood		

How many books should you read at a time?

That depends on you and your child –
his attention span, his interest,
your own time frame and agenda.
Take your cues from your child.



Should I keep reading the same books over and over?

Reading books again and again is a great strategy for emergent readers:

Children participate more in book conversations
Children begin to compare that story with other books or their
own life.

Children are able to play out stories
Children attempt to read these books independently
Familiar books help develop a positive self image as a reader.

It is great to read a mix of old favorites and new books.

As well as reading books to and with your child, it is very effective to listen to books read by your child. It doesn't matter whether the child is "reading" the pictures, chanting what he has memorized, or actually reading the text, all of these are important developmental stages of emergent reading! When your child reads aloud to you it gives him a chance to control the interaction with the book and practice the reading behaviors you have modeled.

Best of all it can help your child fall in love with reading!