

Parent Pages

Preschoolers Are Developing Into Readers

Preschoolers are almost ready to read. You can further develop your preschooler prereading skills by continuing to read in order to develop vocabulary, print awareness, narrative skills, letter knowledge, interest in reading and the understanding that words are made up of a number of sounds. Use the following activities to enhance your shared reading time and broaden your preschooler's early literacy skills.

Encourage your preschooler to “read” aloud. Have your preschooler practice “reading” aloud from a simple book – *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* is a perfect choice. Once your child is comfortable reading the book, have him read aloud the book to a younger sibling, the dog, or a neighborhood child.

Make up your own stories. Share stories with your child from when you were a child, make up stories featuring your own child as the main character, or tweak a favorite story that you read aloud together. Preschoolers love to engage with their favorite grownup; use your time together to talk.

Read more than just books! Read magazines and newspapers; read aloud to your child from cereal boxes and packaging. Show your preschooler that print is all around them and that this print is meaningful. Check out books on tape and CD and follow along with the story using picture books.

Make your own books. Create your own books by having your child dictate and illustrate a story. Copy to words from a favorite books onto blank paper and have your child illustrate the book with a different ending.

Choose books that relate to your child's interests. Is your child fascinated with dinosaurs? Does your child love babies? Check out books that relate to your child's interests when visiting the library. Keep a sheet of paper on the refrigerator and write down topics your child is interested in throughout the week. Was your child particularly enthralled when digging in the dirt outside? Has your child talked all week about the fire engine that passed your house? Write these down and take the sheet to the library during your weekly visits; have the librarian help you find books on these topics.

Introduce informational books to your preschooler. Demonstrate how you can use books to find the answer to questions by searching for information on interesting subjects. *The Magic School Bus* is great informational series with a storybook feel.

Act out your child's favorite stories. Use the plots from your child's favorite stories as the basis for pretend play. Act out the stories as they are found in the book or change the ending. Use puppets, dolls, or stuffed animals to act out your favorite stories. Encourage your child to act out their own play for your family to watch.

Books for Four and Five Year Olds

When Sophie Gets Angry
Molly Bang

Anansi and the Talking
Melon
Eric Kimmel

Tikki Tikki Tembo
Arlene Mosel

Cloudy With a
Chance Of Meatballs
Judi Barrett

Edwin the Emu
Sheena Knowles

The Paper Bag
Princess
Robert Munsch

Madeline
Ludwig Bemelmans

Edwina the Emu
Sheena Knowles

The Paperboy
Dav Pilkey

Tell Me Again About
The Night I was Born
Jamie Lee Curtis

Tacky the Penguin
Helen Lester

The Day the Babies
Crawled Away
Peggy Rathmann

The Accidental
Zucchini
Max Grover

Frog and the Toad
are Friends
Arnold Lobel

Caps for Sale
Esphyr Slobodkina

Chester's Way
Kevin Henkes

Mouse Tales
Arnold Lobel

Wild About Books
Judy Sierra

Chrysanthemum
Kevin Henkes

Froggy Gets Dressed
Johnathon London

Baa-Choo
Sarah Weeks

Wolf's Chicken Stew
Keiko Kasza

George and Martha
James Marshall

Tuesday
David Weisner

I
'm Still Here in the
Bathtub
Alan Katz

Blueberries for Sal
Robert McCloskey

The Little Old Lady Who
Wasn't Afraid of Anything
Linda Williams

Whistle for Willie
Ezra Jack Keats

Little Bear
Else Holmelund Minarik

Harry the Dirty Dog
Gene Zion



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

*Prepared by Wendy Wilcox, Extension Support Specialist
in the Department of Policy Analysis & Management at Cornell
University. Visit the Parenting in Context website at
www.parenting.cit.cornell.edu.*

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