



# Reading With Preschoolers



## **The Importance of Reading to Young Children**

Reading storybooks with children

- Introduces children to the pleasure of reading
- Stimulates imagination
- Strengthens brain connections
- Introduces children to new knowledge as well as familiar and comforting themes
- Enhances language ability

## Strategies to Encourage Story Talk

1. First, invite children to look at, and then talk about, the pictures.

*I wonder what you see on the cover.*

*I see a fox. I think a fox might be in this story.*

2. Talk about the setting.

*I wonder where this story is happening.*

*I think that blue part looks like a lake.*

3. Connect pictures to words.

*Let's read the words to find out why the gingerbread man is running.*

4. Introduce new words and help children understand new vocabulary.

*You've stacked the boxes and they're **wobbly**. They're not **stable**.*

5. Encourage children to comment on the actions in the story

*What do you see happening now?*

*It looks like the children are tiptoeing down the stairs.*

6. Flip back and forth in the book. Reread and look back at pictures.

*It looks like the mouse is on top of the bed now. Where was he on the other page?*

7. Imagine what a character might be thinking or saying.

*I wonder what that fox is thinking now.*

8. Relate actions in the story to children's own actions.

*The peddler is shaking his fist because he is so angry.*

*What do you do when you're angry?*

## It's Important to Read Because...

Reading to children helps children acquire more vocabulary.

The English language contains 500,000 words, yet only 15,000 words are used in everyday speech, and only 7,000 words are used on television.

— P. Kropp (2000). *How to make your child a reader for life.*

## Storybooks for Preschoolers

*The Runaway Dinner*, Allan Ahlberg  
*Once Upon a Banana*, Jennifer Armstrong  
*Wolf and the Seven Little Kids*, Ann Blades  
*The First Strawberries*, Joseph Bruchac  
*Mr. Grumpy's Motor Car*, John Burningham  
*Katy and the Big Snow*, Virginia Lee Burton  
*Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, Virginia Burton  
*The Empty Pot*, Demi  
*Pancakes for Breakfast*, Tomie DePaola  
*The Hatseller and the Monkeys*, Baba Wague Diakite  
*Earl the Squirrel*, Don Freeman  
*Night Noises*, Mem Fox  
*Millions of Cats*, Wanda Gag  
*Flora's Blanket*, Debi Gliori  
*Bedtime for Frances*, Russell Hoban  
*The Snowy Day*, Ezra Jack Keats  
*Sam and the Tigers*, Julius Lester  
*Blueberries for Sal*, Robert McCloskey  
*Tomas and the Library Lady*, Pat Mora  
*The Funny Little Woman*, Arlene Mosel  
*Curious George*, H.A. Rey  
*The Biggest Soap*, Carole Lexa Schaefer  
*Farmer Palmer's Wagon Ride*, William Steig  
*Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, William Steig  
*A Chair for My Mother*, Vera Williams

### Wordless Picture Books

*Tuba Lessons*, T.C. Bartlett  
*Good Dog, Carl*, Alexandra Day  
*Changes, Changes*, Pat Hutchins  
*Rainstorm*, Barbara Lehman  
*A Boy, A Dog, and a Frog*, Mercer Mayer  
*Good Night, Gorilla*, Peggy Rathmann  
*Deep in the Forest*, Brinton Turkle

### Recommended by Others:

## **Benefits of Rereading Stories to Children**

### Rereading stories

- Gives children more opportunities to understand the story
- Strengthens brain connections
- Improves vocabulary, sequencing, and memory skills
- Helps build children's confidence
- Increases the possibility that children will be able to read books on their own

## Reading Plans

1. Think of one of your children's favorite book. Write the name of it down here:
2. What makes it so interesting to children?
3. Which interactive strategies will you use the next time you read this book with them?