

15 Tips for Sharing Books with Children Ages Four to Five

- 1 Share a variety of books with more detail, description, and complex plots than those used for younger preschoolers. Text can have several sentences on each page, and stories can contain more characters.
- 2 Pick traditional titles—folktales and fairy tales—along with new titles and old favorites or classics.
- 3 Share different types of books: participation, cumulative, rhymed, humorous, nonsense, concept, riddle, poetry, song, and books with repetitive phrases.
- 4 Manipulative books (including pop-up books) are good for one-on-one sharing or letting your child explore alone.
- 5 Pick books on topics that fascinate your child or arouse her curiosity.
- 6 Share easy nonfiction books on subjects your child might have questions about or show an interest in.
- 7 Have your child make up or tell his own unique stories by using wordless picture books.
- 8 Share books with visually interesting covers and captivating illustrations. Picture books are a great introduction to different styles of art that have been created with various types of media.
- 9 Encourage your child to participate by joining in on repetitious phrases, singing along to song picture books, or making sounds, such as animal or vehicle sounds.

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- 10 Ask simple questions so your child can participate in the storytelling, such as “What animal is this?” or “What color is the frog?” Help your child develop predicting skills by asking “What do you think will happen next?” or by showing the cover of a book and asking “What do you think this book is about?”
- 11 Read with expression, using different voices and vocalizing sounds to keep your child’s interest and to make the book come alive.
- 12 Pick books that you enjoy. If you like the story, your enthusiasm will make the story “come alive” and your child will want to hear it again and again.
- 13 Do not be afraid to read favorite books numerous times. Children love repetition, and when a book becomes familiar, they will join in “reading.”
- 14 Allow your child to select books to be read.
- 15 Read books at different times throughout the day—short periods of time, several times a day, are just as beneficial as longer sharing periods.