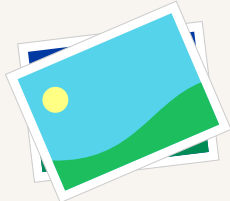




Book Choice Tool for Young Children

The goal is to choose books that:

- Help you take turns back-and-forth with your child
- You can read together many times
- Let you go beyond the words on the page
- Have interesting pictures for you and your child that you can easily talk about.



The Pictures

- Pick books with pictures and colors that you and your child like.
- Choose a variety of books with different images to give your child choices.
- **Simple images**- single images with a simple background can help with teaching new words.



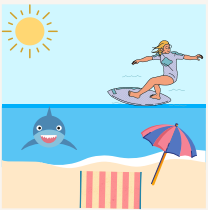
Apple

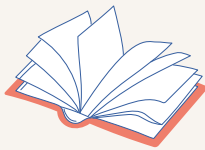
- Single images can help focus your child's attention.
- You can label the item or ask your child to label it.
- Expand on the label and talk about the color, size, and shape of the item and connect it to your child's life.
- **Multiple images**- books with multiple people, actions, and things on each page can help expand your child's language and keep your child's attention longer.
 - For children who are not talking yet, choose one or two items to focus on and talk about.
 - For children who are talking, follow your child's lead and expand on what they say.
 - Ask WH questions (where, what, who, etc.) for your child to answer.



The Physical Book

- Pick some books that your child can handle. Let your child **hold the book** and **turn the pages**.
- Pick some smaller books that your child can easily hold.
- **Board books** have thicker pages that will be easier for your child to turn. They may hold up better as your child learns how to handle a book.
- Textures, cutouts, and flaps can help your child engage with the book.
- **Focus on the images** in the book instead of the length. If your child can't sit through a long book, you don't have to finish it in one sitting. You can choose a few pages to share at one time.





The Content

- **Choose a variety** of different types of books about different topics!
- Look for books about **topics that your child knows** and books about **new topics**.
- Books about **familiar objects or routines** can help your child engage with book sharing.
- Books about **new subjects or upcoming events** (i.e., going to school, going to the doctor) can teach your child new vocabulary and about new experiences.
- It's never too early to **read story books** to your child! Exposing your child to how a story is structured can help them in school.



The Words

- Choose books with different amounts of words.
- **Wordless picture books**- Help you talk about the pictures and not just read the words.
- **Single word books**- Help teach new vocabulary by focusing on one word per page.
 - Use words to **name and describe**.
 - For example, "it's a big ball"
- **Simple sentence books**- Help give you a starting point to talk about the book.
 - Go beyond the sentence and describe the images too.
 - Your child may learn some of the words after you read the book multiple times. Pause and have your child fill in a word of the sentence.
- **Paragraph books**- Help teach your child great stories, but your child may lose attention.
 - Talk about the pictures or ask your child questions while reading to keep him/her engaged.
- Find books with a **rhyme**. Rhyming is important for language and reading development. Just by hearing the rhyme your child is learning! When your child is older pause before the rhyming word and see if he/she can fill it in!

Keep track of your child's favorite books here!
