Read Stories Children Want to Hear

One way to guarantee a successful read loud is to choose age-appropriate books children will enjoy. When children like stories, they will:

1. Sit and listen attentively.
2. Eagerly answer any questions.
3. Happily recite any repetitive phrases that may occur in the story.
4. Ask to hear the story again.

When we read books children want to hear, it helps them to develop a love and appreciation of reading. This positive attitude, called print motivation, lays the foundation needed to support and encourage learning. Once children enjoy hearing books read aloud, it becomes easy to help them learn essential early literacy skills – phonological awareness, print awareness, vocabulary, letter knowledge and background knowledge – and they enter school ready to read and write.

Fairfax County Public Library wants to help you choose good books to read aloud. Go to research.fairfaxcounty.gov/early-literacy and click on “I Like Picture Books About...” to find age-appropriate titles sorted by popular subjects (families, bedtime stories, dinosaurs, etc.). Check these book lists often for regular updates, and if you would like to suggest a book list for “I Like Picture Books About...,” send an email to LibEarlyLiteracy@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Children Like Picture Books About …

Find these books and many other great selections at your neighborhood library branch.

**Families**

*Families, Families, Families* by Suzanne Lang
Animals portray all kinds of non-traditional families.

*Jazz Baby* by Lisa Wheeler
A beboppin’ baby gets his whole family singing and dancing.

*My Brother Charlie* by Holly Robinson Peete
A girl describes living with her twin brother who has autism but, in most ways, is just like any other boy.

*Peekaboo Morning* by Rachel Isadora
A toddler plays a game of peekaboo. Features familiar people, toys and animals that will delight babies.

**Non-Fiction**

*Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins
This book discusses and shows examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals.

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“Children Like Books About...” continued from page 1

Digger, Dozer, Dumper by Hope Vestergaard
Poems about trucks, construction equipment and emergency vehicles.

Dinosaur Bones by Bob Barner
This book teaches children about dinosaur fossils.

The Magic School Bus Presents Wild Weather by Sean Callery
Ms. Frizzle and her class head into the clouds to explore weather, including hurricanes, tornadoes, snowstorms, lightning and weather forecasting.

Prehistoric Actual Size by Steve Jenkins
In this “actual size” look at the prehistoric world, meet awe-inspiring creatures such as a dinosaur smaller than a chicken and a six-foot long millipede.

Winter
Bear’s Winter Party by Deborah Hodge
Bear loves his forest home, but sometimes he gets lonely. As autumn turns to winter, Bear springs into action and comes up with a festive plan to make friends with all the other forest creatures.

The First Day of Winter by Denise Fleming
Alive with swirling snow and lots of outdoor fun, this cumulative tale will have children chanting along as they discover all the trimmings needed for the most perfect snowman.

One-Dog Sleigh by Mary Casanova
A girl hitches her dog to her sleigh one morning, only to be insistently joined by a series of animals, large and small.

Over and Under the Snow by Kate Messner
Over the snow, the world is hushed and white. But under the snow lies a secret world of squirrels and snow hares, bears and bullfrogs and many other animals making their winter home.

The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter’s Wonders by Mark Cassino
An exploration of the science of snow, featuring photos of real snow crystals in their beautiful diversity. Snowflake-catching instructions are also included.

Waiting for Winter by Sebastian Meschenmoser
Deer has told Squirrel how wonderful snow is. Soon something is falling from the sky, but it isn’t snow. Eventually they find out what snow is.

Library Shout Out: Read, Write, Talk, Sing, Play Poster

Research has identified five important practices parents and teachers can use to help children get ready to read: read, write, talk, sing and play. Besides reading with young children every day, teachers and parents can help children talk about and retell stories; practice coloring and writing; play clapping games; and sing and dance to favorite songs to add to the fun of language.

Children who are not read to every day are exposed to 30 million fewer words than their peers before age 3. It is vital to include these practices daily to help children be excited about language and eager to learn to read themselves.

Fairfax County Public Library has a new bi-monthly poster with ideas to read, write, talk, sing and play with children using a specific book. You can find this resource and other early literacy publications at research.fairfaxcounty.gov/early-literacy. Click on Preschoolers to see these and many other resources.