A picture walk is simply previewing the pictures in a picture book to familiarize children with the story prior to introducing the text. A picture walk builds interest and excitement and can serve as a preview for important concepts and vocabulary that will make your read-aloud more successful. Plus, it reinforces the reading strategy of using picture clues and helps develop your children’s language and pre-reading skills.

First, read it yourself. As you read, look closely at the illustrations, text and structure of the book. What parts might be challenging for children? What concepts and vocabulary will be new? What can you say to increase their excitement?

While taking a picture walk you might:

- Look at the cover and make predictions.
- Use some of the vocabulary in the story that might be new or unfamiliar to the children.
- Ask questions about whom the story might be about, where it is taking place and what is happening.
- Tie in past experiences to make the story more meaningful.

These actions will encourage children’s participation in-group discussions, improve their comprehension of the story and engage the children to be an active participant in storytime. When we provide children a glimpse of visual story elements it helps stir their imaginations and engages them in the storytime experience.

By Liz Townsend

Find these and many other books to picture walk with your child at your neighborhood library branch.

**All Right Already!: A Snowy Story** by Jory John
Duck is super excited and can’t wait to play in the snow with his best friend, Bear. Bear isn’t excited about playing with Duck, or going out in the snow.

**Chicken Soup** by Jean Van Leeuwen
When they hear that Mrs. Farmer is making soup, all the frightened chickens run for their lives, but Mr. Farmer finds Little Chickie, who has a bad cold, and he takes her to the kitchen for some nice hot vegetable soup.

**Don’t Wake Up the Tiger** by Britta Teckentrup
Tiger’s friends are trying to sneak by her as she sleeps so they can plan a surprise for her birthday.

**Flashlight Night** by Matt Esenwine
Three children use a flashlight to light a path around their backyard at night; in the flashlight’s beam another world looms.

**Float** by Daniel Miyares
Wordless picture book about a boy who loses his paper boat in the rain.

**A Gift for Goose** by Tad Hills
When Duck has a gift for Goose, he puts it in a box that he painted with red, blue and yellow stripes.
**Groovy Joe: Ice Cream and Dinosaurs**
by Eric Litwin
Groovy Joe is a fun-loving dog with a tub full of ice cream—which he shares with his unexpected dinosaur guests.

**A Hat for Minerva Louise**
by Janet Morgan Stoeke
Minerva Louise, a snow-loving chicken, mistakes a pair of mittens for two hats to keep both ends warm.

**I Like My Bike**
by AG Ferrari
Illustrations and easy-to-read text show the advantages of being on a bicycle when streets are jammed with other vehicles.

**Little Owl’s Snow**
by Divya Srinivasam
Little Owl looks forward to his first snowfall.

**Little Whale**
by Jo Weaver
Little Whale is nervous about leaving the shallows of the warm, southern sea but Gray Whale gently guides her new baby as they migrate to the cool, rich waters of the north.

**Loving Hands**
by Tony Johnston
The small moments and quiet scenes that make up childhood—learning to clap, planting a garden, waving good-bye on the first day of school—fill the pages of this gentle tale.

**On My Way to Bed**
by Sarah Maizes
Livi imagines herself as a tightrope walker, a zoo dentist, a magician and more as she tries to avoid going to bed.

**One Snowy Day**
by Diana Murray
Spinning and twirling, they float to the ground—millions of snowflakes not making a sound. The house is still quiet and still nearly dark, when ONE playful puppy leaps up with a bark.

**A Parade of Elephants**
by Kevin Henkes
Illustrations and easy-to-read text introduce such basic concepts as adjectives, adverbs, daytime and nighttime as they follow five elephants marching from dawn to dusk.

**Splish, Splash, Ducky!**
by Lucy Cousins
Ducky Duckling has a rainy-day adventure, but when the rain stops he feels sad.

**Summer Supper**
by Rubin Pfeffer
Follow the creation of a family meal from farm to picnic table on a warm sunny day.

**Who Ate All the Cookie Dough?**
by Karen Beaumont
Kanga and her friends try to discover who ate all her cookie dough.

**Where’s Bunny?**
by Theo Heras
A cozy celebration of bedtime routines.

**Where is Bear?**
by Jonathan Bentley
A little boy and his best friend—an actual bear—go on a search for a teddy bear before bedtime.

**Will You Help Me Fall Asleep?**
by Anna Kang
Monty, an anthropomorphic frog, can’t fall asleep and asks readers to help. The frog is worried that if they don’t get enough sleep, Mom won’t let them participate in the boat races at the pond the next day.

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**Library Shout Out: New Databases Available**

Fairfax County Public Library recently added several databases for young children to the library website. Early World of Learning, introduces children to core early concepts through stories, songs, videos and much more. Read-along stories in both English and Spanish are available through the database. Scholastic Go! provides accurate, reliable content on almost every core-curricula subject.

Nonfiction texts videos and other easy-to-navigate digital resources help strengthen content knowledge, vocabulary and core skills.

Kid’s InfoBits helps children K-5 learn about current events, the arts, science, history, sports and more.

Access to these databases is free to library cardholders. To use these databases, click here, then click on the database you’d like to explore.

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703-324-8365.