

Choosing Books to Promote Sentence Diversity

Recommendations

1. Look for books with simple pictures and simple text. These kinds of books support talking *with* your child about the book rather than simply reading the text *to* your child.
2. Look for books that expose your child to a variety of action words or descriptive words. Most books for young children emphasize names for things or pre-academic concepts like colors, shapes, letters, and numbers. Although names and basic concepts are important, these words alone are primarily used to “label.” To share comments and ask questions about the world around them, children need other kinds of words too.
3. Look for books that describe the actions, states, or properties of a main character. For toddlers, simple stories that emphasize the character’s actions within a familiar activity may be particularly good (e.g., bath time, playtime, bedtime).
4. Look for ‘touch and feel’ books that have a variety of textures on the pages. ‘Touch and feel’ books are ideal for helping your child make the connection between properties of objects and the words that describe them. Ideally, the book would include a variety of properties such as soft, rough, squishy, or furry.
5. Look for books that describe actions, states, or properties of individual subjects (e.g., dog, cat, truck, ball) rather than groups (e.g., dogs, cats, trucks, balls). Developmentally, children are more likely to comment on the actions, states, or properties of single things before groups.
6. Look for books that tell a story, rather than books that repeat the same question and answer routine. Storybooks provide more examples of sentences with different words.

Suggested Books

Begin Smart Books. (2008). *What Does Baby Do?* New York: Sterling Publishing Company, Inc.

Church, C. (2007). *Woof's Playtime*. New York: Walker & Company.

Church, C. (2007). *Woof's Snacktime*. New York: Walker & Company.

- And other *Woof* books

Dodd, E. (2003). *Dog's Birthday*. New York: Dutton Children's Books.

Dunrea, O. (2006). *Ollie the Stomper*. New York: Walker & Company.

Kahn, P. (1993). *Did You Ever Pet a Care Bear?* New York: Random House.

Katz, K. (2010). *Baby at the Farm*. New York: Little Simon.

Mockford, C. (2008). *Cleo the Cat*. New York: Barefoot Books.

- And other *Cleo the Cat* books

Saltzberg, B. (2012). *Arlo Needs Glasses*. New York: Workman Publishing Company.

Wilson, K., & Chapman, J. (2003). *Bear Wants More*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books.

- And other *Bear* books

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